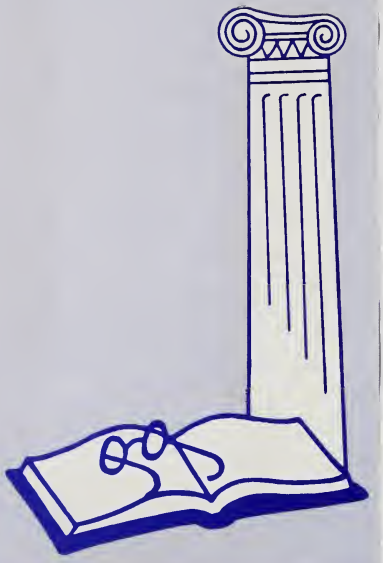
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ARE YOU the Person God Intended You to Be?

See page 6

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Getting Along With Your PARENTS



Sherri Scarborough, a vivacious teenager, talks about surviving the parent trap and dealing with parental differences.



By Sherri Scarborough

PARENTS!

Does that word make you smile and feel good?

Or do you want to change the subject?

Getting along with parents can be a breeze at times, and a struggle at others. Most of us want to get along and have the happy family that God wants us to have.

Home is where you can always be yourself. It is a place where you can say, "I hate it when you scold me in front of people!" It's a place where you can say, "I'm afraid to go to the dentist and I need you to go with me." But there are restrictions. You cannot decide to throw a shoe through the window, or call your parents "names."

In getting along with parents, remember that everybody is different. Even parents and children. Accept these differences. They will think differently than you think. They have different interests. But if everybody in your family were just alike, you'd probably have a boring life.

Your parents probably don't understand why you listen to the radio for hours. When you get grounded that's usually the first thing they take from you. In my home I tell Mom I have to have the radio to get up by, to get ready for school by, to study by, and to go to bed by. She says it slows her down; it speeds me up. So accept the fact that everybody's different. Learn to work out the differences.

Contemporary music fits in uncomfortably with the lifestyle of parents. I don't understand how anybody can drive without the radio going full blast, especially on long trips. So my parents and I have compromised. For half the trip I listen to my contemporary gospel music while they plug their ears. During the other half I plug my ears while they listen to traditional gospel music or to classical music. The trick is to ask for a radio with earphones for your birthday gift and bring it along in the car.

Parents have problems, too. Just because they are adults doesn't mean that they don't have feelings. They get sick; they feel real pain. Mom may be past forty, but she misses her mom at times. Parents get lonely, hurt, and even angry at times, too. Their feelings are just as real as ours.

Enjoy your parents. God gave just the right ones to you. Happiness as a teen will happen if you enjoy your mom and dad. Enjoy dad's unique sense of humor. Help mom prepare those special candlelight dinners.

Enjoy shopping together. Shop for clothes with mom, even though your tastes are different. Enjoy their guests. You can learn much from these different kinds of people.

Do nice things for your parents. Plan a special anniversary surprise party for a few of their closest friends. Serve something simple like coffee and cake. Buy your mom and dad a small gift.

When we think of doing and saying something nice for our parents, we can always think of a dozen reasons why we shouldn't. But do it anyway. Do you ever feel like giving your parents a quick hug, but don't? Why do you think we hold back? Maybe it's because we think they already know how we feel. They might, but everyone needs to hear that they are appreciated. Perhaps you're embarrassed. Someone has to make the first move. So go ahead and give your mom and dad a hug today, right out of the blue. If they ask you why you did that, say, "No reason at all."

They may go into shock or faint, but they'll recover.

Asking for favors is tricky. Everything



Getting Along With Your PARENTS

depends on timing. The worst time in the world to ask for a raise in your allowance is when your dad is rushing to get to work on time. Don't ask your mom if you can have friends over when she's looking over your room that needs to be cleaned.

A common problem is trying to figure out how to get more independence. Kids your age stay out later and do more things than your parents allow you. This often brings a strong conflict. Parents don't think you are ready to handle certain situations when you know you are, so you want to prove to them that you can handle yourself and make your own decisions. One thing I've found is that parents watch you. ***If you show them you are responsible, they allow you more freedom.***

What about quarrels? Some teenagers act as if parents are deaf or blind. They yell and stomp their feet. That may make you feel better, but it doesn't convince your parents you have anything to say. If you want to win, ***give intelligent reasons for wanting things or objecting to what they want.***

Don't say, "Only a creep would wear that dress." Say, "Mom, I don't like that dress, because it makes me look like I'm 40 instead of 15." Or say, "The bottoms of those shoes are slick and I would fall down in the hall at school."

It's tough to always say the right things and be polite and perfect for your parents. You feel, "What's the use? Trying to be an angel just doesn't work." Don't try to put on a show. ***Just be yourself.***

What about work responsibilities? Love and harmony comes from helping with the chores, especially if your mom works. Some families post a list of daily chores. ***Decide which duties are yours and do them cheerfully.***

Forgive. When your parents embarrass you, talk it over with them; then forgive. They probably didn't mean what it seemed. Forget it.

Love your parents. Love brings out the best in each person. There are no perfect people, make your mom and dad your best friends. God, who knows best, put you in just the home you are in.

Parents can be fun . . .

—to have dinner with in the evening after a hard day at school.

—to go shopping with.

—to laugh with.

—to cry with.

—to feel with and even to fuss with.

Parents are for sharing things with and for caring with. □

A Church of God Youth Publication

ARE YOU the Person God Intended You to Be?



HOW WOULD YOUR parents describe you?

You've reached the age of reasoning and your distinct personality is sending out signals. What do these special signals tell others about the real you? After listing your physical characteristics, would they consider you to be a loving, respectful person? Is your love for your parents obvious? Are you a Christian? Do your actions portray your beliefs?

Most parents want to raise their children to be God-loving, happy, healthy, and spiritually alive adults. How do you rate?

Being a successful person takes more than just luck. If you have a deep faith you are fortunate. For along with proper discipline, God's love is essential for a maturing adult.

Just as it's tough growing up, so it's tough raising children today. Demands on time, energy, finances, and patience combine with worldly forces in this shadow-filled world.

Are you happy with the job your parents have done? Can they be happy with themselves because they are satisfied with the way you are coming along?

Parents receive a lot of joy as well as some heartaches from their children. Along with the special feeling they get when they see your first smile or watch you take your first step, they have to learn to give their fears to God when you are sick or hurting. They worry about you when you are out in the car alone or when you are having trouble in school. In the dark hours of parenting, prayer is the only option they can choose over worry and fear.

WHY PARENTS SAY "NO"

Anita needs new clothes. Mom and Dad are happy to supply them. In fact, a Saturday has been set aside for just that reason. As the trio shop from store to store it soon becomes apparent that Anita is interested only in "name" clothes—those special outfits and items that carry the designer's logo. Designer clothes cost more. When her parents explain that only a limited amount of money is available, Anita becomes verbally hostile. When her demands cannot be met, her

parents are angry, and sad. Obviously, Anita is unhappy.

The reason for their saying "no" varies.

Parents must be practical. The next time you receive a negative answer, accept your parents' wisdom. If your request is for a purchase, talk to your mom and dad at a later time and see if they are willing for you to earn the money. If they make it clear that the answer is still "no," be mature enough to accept it.

SENSITIVE SIBLINGS

Everyone knows that children fight, especially brothers and sisters. Researchers and parents agree that fighting and tension breed fighting and tension. What part do you play in trying to end a quarrel with your brother or sister on a positive note?

When you are jealous, how do you handle it? These and other demeaning emotions get us into trouble. It takes a loving, understanding person to return a smile when you are greeted with a rude remark. Think about it the next time you argue.

TWO OF A KIND

Although most parents realize it's wrong to compare a child with another, they often do. To help prevent this action share your thoughts and feelings freely with your parents so that they will know *your* goals, fears, and concerns. They can help you find answers you need.

And they will feel secure enough about you that they will cease comparing you with "you know who."

I LOVE YOU, MOM AND DAD

Your parents have invested a lot of years in you. Their time and love mean they believe in the goodness of tomorrow. Can you say the same thing?

Do you have concrete goals for the future or are you still living for today? Just as there are different ways to decorate your house, so there are different ways to raise a child. What is right for Gregory down the street may not be right for you or your family.

Try to be understanding, loving, and flexible. Remember God loves you the way you are.

Yet, He wants you to be more than you are now! □



By Patricia A. Punt

Which is more important, your parents' expectations or God's expectations of you?

HOW TO TALK TO PARENTS

By Agnes Griffor

Ten terrific tips on tiptoeing through the communications tunnel.



KEEP LINES OF communication open, parents and youth are told. But how?

Good communication is difficult when viewpoints seem to branch further and further apart.

If you are frustrated by an inability to talk to your parents, here are some guidelines to help you.

1. *Be aware of your feelings about your parents before you talk with them.*

Growing up means gradually assuming responsibility for yourself and your actions—something your parents have supervised for many years. Knowing what your parents expect of you and how you react inside yourself to their expectations gives you a good foundation for talking with them.

2. *Learn how to "listen" for the feelings of others.*

Good listening involves trying to enter the speaker's feelings, to see things through his or her eyes. If you listen to your parents conversing with others, you will begin to get a feel for the goals and responsibilities they have. This makes it easier to understand their reactions when you talk to them.

3. *Choose the right time and place to talk.*

At certain times your parents are busy or

preoccupied and will not give you the attention you would like to receive. Mealtime is a bad time to approach your mother. Right after he comes home from work is a bad time to talk to your father. If you have been corrected and are filled with anger or resentment, "sleep on it" before trying to plead your cause. Many problems seem smaller in the daytime than they do at night.

Some parents react better if they are forewarned. It may be good to say to them ahead of time, "I want to talk to you about something. When would be a good time?"

4. *Be honest. Don't play games with your parents.*

When you were younger, you may have brought a friend with you when you wanted to ask your parent's permission. You assumed that your parent would say "yes" to save a nasty scene in front of an outsider. Perhaps that ploy worked. But your parent probably felt maneuvered.

You use different games now. Although the most important thing may seem to be getting what you want here and now, good communication depends upon mutual trust. You would not feel close to a friend who manipulated you. Neither will your parents.

5. *Stick to one difficulty or problem—don't bring up others from the past.*

It may seem to you that your brothers or sisters are more favored than you. Perhaps, because you are the same age as someone who has been given a certain privilege or responsibility, you feel you should receive it too. Most parents, however, react to each child individually. It is to your advantage that they do so, since you may have specific strengths which enter into their judgments. Depend on those strengths instead of arguing from comparisons or bringing up old issues.

6. *Try to present your reactions clearly and strongly.*

Write out your reasoning, if necessary, before talking with your parents. It will give you an effective plan and will save you from feeling later, "Oh, why didn't I say it this way?"

7. *Don't pretend to your parents to be more grown up than you really are.*

Don't ask for a privilege or responsibility that you can't handle. Failure can mean loss of what you have gained and may balance future decisions against you. Parents are like business managers who reward success with promotion. Succeeding in smaller things leads to greater privileges.

8. *If you want to be given more responsibility, show that you are responsible.*

Build up a record of performance and you will not have to beg for responsibility or privilege. Look for tasks you can perform without being asked. Handle your assigned chores as though you are part of a team, which you really are. Entertain a younger brother or sister. Break up an argument gently. Give your mother a night off from demanding chores. Offer a helping hand to your father. These are possibilities open to most young people. Help demonstrate that you are aware of the needs of other family members.

9. *Don't let bitterness over small matters fester inside you.*

Hurts that are evident to you may not be apparent to others. Perhaps the tone of voice your father uses or your mother's giving permission by saying, "I don't care," conveys a hurtful message to you. Tell the offender about your feelings at a time when you are not asking for something. You may be surprised at the results. Parents do not want to hurt their children.

10. *Let your parents know that you love them.*

For many young people, expressing the warm emotions they feel is difficult. Love, however, has many faces and voices. A fleeting touch of the hand, a quick hug, a smile or a word of appreciation all express love.

If you find that saying how you feel makes you tongue-tied or embarrassed, try writing what you think. A note left where your parent will find it, a poem or appropriate saying clipped from a magazine will express for you what you have difficulty saying for yourself.

Some find it easier to talk in the dark and will stop for a few words with their parents when they come in late at night. If you want to talk to a parent in your own room, leave the door open invitingly.

While you are trying these hints to improve communication, do not be discouraged if your efforts don't always succeed. In any close relationship, there are times when lines of communication are down. Patient waiting and watching for a new opportunity is a wise course to follow.

The last years that you spend with your parents can be a rich source of strength both for you and for them. Do not waste this time to build a firm foundation for the future. □

FINDING GOD'S WILL

By Van Henderson

"God is interested in your job, who you date, your away-from-church activities," says Van Henderson. He lists some positive steps to take in trying to discover God's will.

WHAT DO YOU want to be? A teacher? Banker? Computer technician? Sanitary engineer (garbage collector)? What is God's calling for your life?

Don't laugh.

Many believe that you should expect God's calling as much if you are to be one of these as you should if you are to be a missionary. Paul was "called" to be a missionary in Acts 13:2. Was he neglecting his "calling" when he worked as a tentmaker in Acts 18:3?



Will God give specific directions for every move you make? If He will (we know He can), does He want you to ask for them and then sit around doing nothing until you are swept off your feet by a direct revelation?

Some Christians make decisions in a totally irrational manner. They look only for signs and fleeces. Fleeces and signs do have a place in the Christian's life. God is interested in your job, who you date, your away-from-church activities. He is a personal God.

Decision making is also an important part of finding God's will. God has given you a mind and a will. It is unlikely that He gave you these tools for you to abandon. Always searching for a flash of light or a vision conditions you to be weak. You face the danger of becoming a religious robot.

"The plan" eludes many. Unhappy lives are made more difficult by fruitless and agonizing searches. Fear of "missing God's will" transforms successes and accomplishments into perceived failures.

Sometimes well-meaning persons will "find" God's will for your life. The big problem is that it is

usually what *they* want for you, not what God wants. Consequently, you probably won't be able to fulfill that "will." You may bomb out trying and find yourself struggling to escape the guilt trip that you experience.

David Kaye (fictitious name) enrolled at Lee College and dived headlong into his studies. He loved every minute of it; he had big plans. He planned, after graduating from Lee, to go for a degree in pharmacology and then have his own pharmacy.

Folks back home thought David was meant to be a preacher, like his daddy. Every time David went home from school, they let him know how they felt. Their strong insistence made David begin to think that his own feelings and desires were "out of God's will."

So he shelved them, along with his responsibility to make decisions for himself. He became confused and frustrated, looking for pat answers instead of seeking for wisdom. He demanded direction and it was not given.

When David was convinced that he was supposed to be a preacher and not a pharmacist, he hit the road on weekends to preach. Eventually, his grades reflected the strain. He dropped out of school, lined up some weekend revivals, and struck out to fulfill the "call" he felt he must have missed during his first two years of college.

Nowadays, David slices meat at the Piggly Wiggly. And preaches, of course. He doesn't preach much, just on weekends every now and then. He doesn't feel inspired too often.

David's difficulty? He accepted someone else's directions for his life. An endless search for a sign and a plan stopped his progress. He didn't study nearly as much as he did when he was happy and performing well in premed studies. He lost his determination and his discipline.

Glorifying God is one of man's primary purposes. We cannot glorify Him by denying our God-given reason and maturity. When we offer ourselves to Him as "empty vessels," He does not expect us to be empty-headed. It is not His will for us to whine for step-by-step directions on how to do even the simplest of tasks.

God *does* give specific guidance. It would be dangerous and misleading to leave the impression that He doesn't. It is equally misleading to demand that He always give it.

How should you, a Christian youth, make your decisions? Try these suggestions:

1. Look for information instead of signs. Don't wait to be spoon-fed answers from God. Ignorance doesn't fall under the "virtues" category.

2. Learn what God's revealed will demands. You'll find it in the Bible. Don't pull a verse out of context and try to solve the crisis facing you at the moment.

3. Base your decisions on two things: evidence and God's absolute moral law, which is the Bible. If you do that, your decision will be rational.

4. "Work as if everything depends upon you, pray as if everything depends upon God." Don't play spiritual roulette. Don't make the stupid decision of waiting until it's too late to make one at all. Don't play games with the premise that God will always straighten out your situation if it falls to pieces.

5. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. God's will is not weird.

6. Pray for guidance, direction, and blessing. After you have done these things, make your decision. Then believe in it.

You will find God's will for you. □

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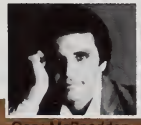
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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

How to Have Daily Devotions

By C. Ellen Watts / Marcus V. Hand

DID YOU HEAR the one about this college dude who wanted to be on fire for God? His problem was that he found it difficult to wake up early enough in the morning for devotions.

So he rigged his clock radio in such a way that when the loud music came on it released a sponge filled with water which fell on his face!

"Everybody says you should have regular personal devotions but nobody tells you how to go about it." You've heard that complaint before. You've probably made it yourself. You found that getting started is easier than keeping it up.

What are you supposed to do in personal devotions?

Here's a plan to help you get started *and* keep going. For an effective quiet time,

—examine your heart in the presence of God

—read from the Bible

—meditate

—pray.

Set aside a definite time for your personal devotions. If you depend on doing it "the first chance you get," you will never do it. Set the most convenient time for you and keep that appointment every day.

Designate a definite place for your personal devotions. If you find that there are times when you cannot keep your appointment with God at the regular place, keep it wherever you are. A designated place, however, will become meaningful to you. It will become your personal altar, your personal prayer closet.

Secure a Bible you can read with ease. The print should be large enough to see without straining. Lighting should be adequate—not too bright and not too dim. Perhaps a Bible in contemporary English will help you better understand God's Word. There are several good translations, including the *New International Version. The Living Bible* is a paraphrase, not a translation, and is couched in devotional language. Paraphrasing is what your pastor does when he says, "In other words, this verse is saying . . . ," then goes on to quote it in up-to-date language.

Keep a prayer diary. Maintain an active prayer list. Write your requests in one column and leave room on the other side of the page to record how and when God answered the prayer or worked out the problem.

On the next three pages, complete the spiritual inventory and the Bible study. Make a commitment to God to begin having daily devotions.

SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

You've seen it on television. One contestant is for real; two are faking it. Which is which? Even the studio audience finds it difficult to tell.

Not so with Christians! Phonies are easy to spot. Here's a little test to help you see yourself. Think each question through carefully and *be honest!* Score like this:

Always—2 points
Sometimes—1 point
Never—0 points.

PERSONAL	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
Is daily prayer a "must"?			
Is regular Bible reading really necessary?			
Do I seek God's help in making decisions?			
Do I let God's love show through me even when things aren't going so good at the time?			
AT HOME			
Do I honor my parents?			
Do I accept family rules gracefully, even though I might sometimes feel they are too strict?			
Do I do my share of the chores without grumbling?			
Do I respect others' privacy?			
SOCIALLY			
Do I practice good manners?			
Do I avoid places and activities where it would embarrass me to be seen by Christ?			
Does it seem unwise for me to date non-Christians?			
Do I honestly believe it is better to be Christlike than popular?			
AT CHURCH			
Am I regular in attendance?			
Is my heart and mind open for instruction as the Word of God is being preached and taught?			
Am I friendly to newcomers?			
Am I careful never to be guilty of gum chewing, note passing, whispering, giggling, and so forth?			
GIVING			
Do I give of my income or allowance to the Lord?			
Do I give cheerfully and willingly?			
Do I feel that giving to foreign missions is important?			
SHARING CHRIST			
Do I look for opportunities to share my faith with others?			
Do I act like a Christian, so others will see Christ in me?			
Have I made myself familiar with scriptures that will help me lead others to my Savior?			
Am I ashamed of the fact that I am a Christian?			

Total your score before answering the final question. My score is _____.

FINAL QUESTION

Are these my own personal convictions, rather than (or as well as) those of my parents or my church? _____

Here it comes—the real you!

On the final question, score yourself like this:

Always—10 points
Sometimes—0 points
Never—subtract 10 points

My total score is _____.

If your greatest desire is to live a Christ-centered life, you will want to give serious thought to your test results.

* 0-25 = Poor. Read Romans 12:1, 2.
* 26-39 = Fair. You have some growing to do. Try 2 Timothy 2:15.
* 40-56 = Excellent. Read Matthew 5:16; 1 Timothy 4:12.

A final word of caution: if your big score gives you even a tinge of "spiritual superiority," read Ephesians 2:8, 9!

LOOK IN THE WORD

Psalm 119:9-16 (*The Living Bible*)

1. Read *verse 9*. How can a person maintain purity of heart and life?

_____

_____

2. *Verse 11*. What does memorizing scripture do for you?

_____

_____

_____

3. *Verse 15*. What does it mean to "meditate" on God's precepts?

_____

_____

_____

_____

HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

a. Read the passage carefully. Don't rush.
b. Think it through with a mind that is open to the Holy Spirit.
c. Apply the scripture to your circumstances.
d. Claim the promise and determine to live on the strength of it.
e. Listen with a spiritual sensitivity for God to impress you with His truth.

4. Memorize *verse 16*.

_____

_____

_____

STEPS IN MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1. Read the context and understand what the verse actually means.
2. Focus in your mind the book, chapter, and verse. Learn the reference.
3. Read the scripture aloud several times.
4. Learn to quote it by phrases.
5. Meditate on how this scripture can help you personally.
6. Write down the verse.
7. Quote it in conjunction with other verses you know.
8. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to seal it in your memory.
9. Use it as quickly as possible in your daily walk.
10. Allow that part of God's Word to become a part of you.

MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT

1. I will endeavor to spend time in personal devotions on a regular basis every day. Looking over my schedule, I think the best time for me would be _____ o'clock.

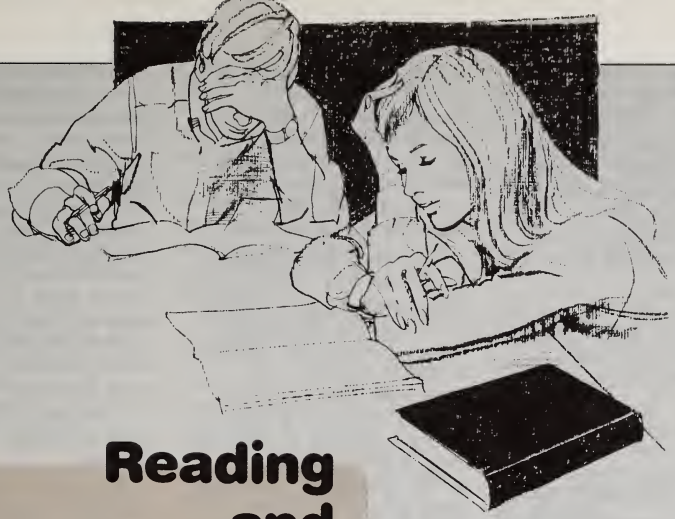
2. I pledge to read _____ chapter(s) in the Bible every day for the next 30 days.

3. I shall endeavor to memorize one verse or passage of Scripture (daily _____) (weekly _____) for the next 30 days.

4. I pledge to make prayer a daily part of my thought life as well as a regular part of my devotional life _____.

Name: _____ ☐

NOTES:



Reading and Studying the Bible Can be Fun

By Billy J./Brenda O'Neal



SUCCESS IN your Christian life depends entirely on what you do with your Bible.

You may attend Sunday school and church faithfully, read Christian literature and try to serve the Lord daily, but unless you spend some time each day studying the Word of God, your Christian life will not be a success!

The Bible is the most important guideline for you. It is the record of God's relationship with humanity. Through its ancient words, God communicates His contemporary, personal Word to each of us.

Studying the Bible can be dull, lifeless and boring *or* studying the Bible can be fun, exciting and rewarding. Acquire some good study methods and you will find yourself enjoying God's Word.

1. *Reading the Bible is fun when you prepare yourself.*

To properly prepare yourself, you need a *heart transplant.* The Bible is a book that is written for the heart! Unless your heart is prepared, you will miss the truths and blessings of God's Word.

Your heart must be *regenerated!* According to 1 Corinthians 2:14, the unsaved person cannot understand God's Word. You must be "born of the Spirit" through faith in Christ.

Your heart must be *humble!* Just as a small lad listens to his

earthly father, so should you listen to your heavenly Father as you study His Word.

Your heart must be *obedient!* The seventh chapter of John says that you must be willing to do whatever the Word commands. God cannot teach those who are unwilling to obey Him!

Your heart must be *devoted!* If you sincerely love God's Word you will have no trouble finding time to read it every day!

A heart transplant? Yes, open your heart to God and let Him prepare it for the blessings He wants to give you.

To properly prepare yourself, you must have an *optical transplant.* Your eyes need to be *opened!* After you have prepared your heart to study God's Word, you should pray the prayer that David prayed, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18).

The Holy Spirit will open your *spiritual eyes!* Not only will your physical eyes see the marvelous things in His Word, but the Holy Spirit will guide you in your studies. Paul says in Ephesians 1:17 that He is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation who will open the eyes of your understanding. So, allow Him to direct your study of God's Word!

2. *Reading the Bible is fun when you use helpful tools.*

You need a Bible dictionary. A little girl drew a picture of three people in a car, driving out of a garden. When her Sunday school teacher asked her to explain, she said, "Oh, that's when God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden." To enjoy studying the Bible you must be able to identify people, happenings, places and things accurately. A Bible dictionary is a necessary tool for doing this.

You need a modern translation of the Bible. The King James Version was translated from Hebrew and Greek manuscripts in 1611. Since that time, many English words have changed in meaning. Consequently, you can be confused by words that had altogether different meanings three centuries ago. By using modern Bible translations along with the King James, modern meanings are given to words and phrases, making them much clearer for you.

3. *Reading the Bible is fun when you utilize the right methods.*

Be sure you *understand the context* of a passage before you interpret it. Always study a verse in the light of the entire chapter. Study the chapter in

YOUTH LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Home: *Chattanooga, Tennessee*
Wife's name: *Brenda*
Children: *Alisa, B.J. II*
Favorite snack food: *Cheese and fritos*
Favorite sport: *Pro football*
Best advice you ever received: *Be patient*
Worst advice you ever received: *Get out of youth work*
Close friends say you are: *A neat dresser*
One thing you would change if you could: *Tenure of state youth directors*
Favorite song: *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*



Billy J. O'Neal, State Director of Youth and Christian Education in Tennessee

Favorite scripture: *2 Corinthians 4:8-11*
Most important lesson you have learned: *Listen!*
If you were not in youth ministry, you would be: *A pastor or a worker in some other area of ministry*
Your greatest joy in youth ministry is: *Seeing young people saved and excited about God and the church*
Knowing what you know now, if you were a teenager you would: *Study harder and make every moment count!* ☐

the light of the entire book. Ask yourself these questions:

a. What is the main theme of this chapter?

b. Who is speaking: God, man, Satan, angels?

c. Who is being addressed: God, man, saints, sinners?

d. When was this spoken or written?

Never study a verse or passage as an isolated piece of Scripture. Look at it in its proper setting and study all the passages related to it. This helps solve what some call *contradictions.*

One of the best ways to have fun studying your Bible is to *study with Christian friends.* The variety of needs and collective insights expressed in a group brings out the riches of a biblical passage. You cannot get everything out of a passage of Scripture by yourself. By sharing the study with others, the riches increase. Your friends provide encouragement in personal expression and application, and give you reinforcement and support.

Sometimes *read the Bible just for inspiration.* Choose a portion of Scripture and read until you're inspired; then STOP! See what God is saying to you in that portion of Scripture. Let Him talk to you, challenging your heart for a special lesson He wants you to know. The Lord foresees the problems you will face today, and tomorrow, and He can prepare you to handle every situation.

Memorize scripture. A Bible is not always available. The passage in 2 Timothy 2:15 says to "study to shew [show] thyself approved." The Bible also tells you to hide His words in your heart that you might not sin against God. You will find assurance, comfort and peace when you are able to bring Bible passages to your remembrance!

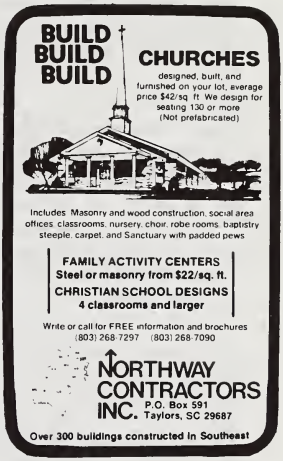
4. *Reading the Bible is fun when you begin to live out what you have learned.*

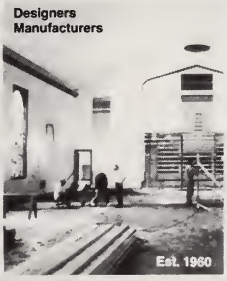
Live your knowledge. Bible study is never complete until there is a daily application of it in your personal life. It's not enough to *know* what's in the Bible. It's not even enough to *understand* what's in the Bible. What is known and understood in the Bible must be personally lived out in your day-to-day living.

Become a disciple. By responding to your Bible study, there will be an automatic "spillover." In other words, you will begin to share the good things you've learned and enjoyed from your Bible study. Those around you will benefit!

Can reading and studying the Bible be fun? YES. Prepare your heart, use available tools, seek the right study methods and habits, and live out what you've learned. The Bible will become a new book to you!

And you will become a new, vibrant Christian! □





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TEST YOU



CIRCLE THE BEST ANSWER:

1. A Christian man can prove himself best by:
   a. Lifting a 200-pound box of Four Spiritual Laws over his head
   b. Dragging 20 guys to church each week
   c. Climbing Mt. Whitney to meditate at the top
   d. None of the above
2. The best example of Christian masculinity is:
   a. Joe Thiesman leading the Washington Redskins into another Superbowl
   b. Mr. T driving his van covered with "Jesus loves you" stickers
   c. Billy Joel singing 42 stanzas of "Onward Christian Soldiers"
   d. Jesus Christ
3. It is all right for a man to cry:
   a. Only when peeling onions
   b. Never!
   c. If nobody is around
   d. When this expresses honestly the way he feels
4. The best way to measure your growth as a Christian man is:
   a. Take care of your body and try to be spiritual
   b. Be macho and pick a fight with someone smaller than you
   c. Smoke, drink, and do other things that "real men" do
   d. Compare yourself to Christ's qualities as a man
5. In the Bible, a man who does not provide for the material needs of his family is worse than:
   a. An unbeliever
   b. His neighbor
   c. A camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle
   d. All of the above
6. The power to be a Christian man comes from:
   a. Trying as hard as you can
   b. The Holy Spirit
   c. Attending a large, successful church
   d. Reading the *Lighted Pathway*
7. When faced with a difficult task, a Christian man should:
   a. Find something else to do, since a loving God wouldn't make you do hard things
   b. Face it and do what is necessary
   c. Find someone else, preferably a non-Christian, to do it
   d. Do it, but let everyone involved know that you don't like it
8. As a Christian man, you should show love and compassion toward:
   a. Family and friends
   b. Attractive girls
   c. People who are homely and disadvantaged
   d. Enemies
   e. All of the above
9. The first and foremost concern of a Christian guy should be:
   a. Find the right girlfriend
   b. Good grades at school
   c. Obeying your parents
   d. Centering yourself on the Lord
   e. A 300-ZX

HRISTIAN
IANHOOD

kind of man are you? Take this quiz, d from *Venture*, and find out.

10. From God's point of view what would happen if you became more kind?
    a. Everybody would start taking advantage of you
    b. All the guys at school would think you are a wimp
    c. Your actions toward others would become a great reflection of the love of God
    d. You'd have to give up sports like football and wrestling

11-14. Match each quality to its correct definition:

Perseverance

Unselfishness

Courage

Compassion

a. Being able to cry in various situations
b. Genuine concern for personal needs of others
c. Spiritual power to fight back
d. Willingness to put others first
e. Make sure your own basic needs are met
f. Being able to handle your own fear to the degree that you can lead others who are also experiencing fear
g. Learning how to quit
h. Selecting a course of action, then sticking to it no matter what

ANSWERS:

1. d; 2. d; 3. d; 4. d; 5. a; 6. b; 7. b; 8. e; 9. e; 10. c; 11-14. h, d, f, b

HOW YOU RATE:

Number Right	Grade
13-14	A+

"Bionic Disciple"—Superior knowledge of Christian masculinity or you are a great cheater. (Take heed to Revelation 22:14, 15.)

11-12	A

"Uptown Guy"—Good understanding of Christian masculinity or you are a fair cheater. (See James 2:18-20.)

8-10	B

"Above-Average-Joe"—You are on the way to success with Christian masculinity, or you are a terrible cheater. (Read 1 Peter 3:15.)

6-7	C

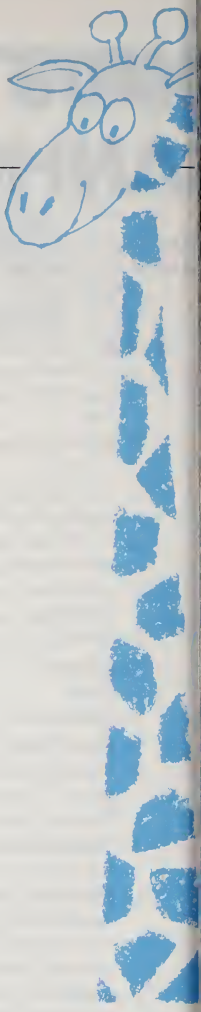
"Average Joe"—You're trying harder, except in the area of cheating. (Learn from 2 Timothy 2:15.)

3-5	D

"Below-Average-Joe"—Fake it by cheating, because you'll never make it by ability. (Take a tip from 2 Timothy 3:15-17.)

0-2	F

"Neanderthal Man"—Do not pass go, do not collect $200—don't even risk crossing the street until you've spent more time in Scripture. (Start with Proverbs 6:9.) □



Measure

Up!

By Patty Dempsey

ANY PERSON OF the female gender will grow up to be a woman; it takes something special to become a *lady*. Consider the questions below and circle the best answer to see how you measure up.

1. When trusted with a secret, a Christian lady:
   a. Tells everybody in the neighborhood
   b. Tells just the "interested parties"
   c. Tells only her best friend, with a warning, "Now, don't tell anybody this, but . . ."
   d. Keeps it to herself, as did Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 2:19)
2. When the Lord brings you out of a miserable situation you should:
   a. Sit quietly and repeat three times, "It's totally awesome . . ."
   b. Do nothing
   c. Rejoice with all your might as Miriam did in Exodus 15:20
   d. Complain, "What took You so long, Lord!"
3. When you are faced with temptation you should:
   a. Listen to Satan as Eve did in Genesis, chapter 3
   b. Ignore the devil
   c. Try to bargain with him
   d. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist

All ladies are women. Not all women are ladies. Patty Dempsey offers a quiz for all girls who think they know the difference.

the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

4. When placed in a leadership role, you should:
   a. Run like crazy away from responsibility
   b. Refuse to accept it, affect a pious attitude, and quote something about submission
   c. Pretend you don't know what leadership is all about
   d. Accept it, following the examples of Judges 4:4 and Romans 16:1
5. A girl in your class has a bad reputation. Your attitude towards her should be:
   a. "I really don't think much of you at all"
   b. "Jesus can change your life and make you clean" (John 4:7-29)
   c. "I wish you wouldn't sit by ME"
   d. "You probably brought it on yourself so you deserve the misery"
6. To be a real lady, you should:
   a. Have no opinion because ignorance is bliss
   b. Never express your opinion
   c. Express your opinion courageously when called on (Esther 5)
   d. Express your opinion so loudly and frequently that you distress all listeners
7. To make a major decision, you should:
   a. Flip a coin
   b. Ask your mother what to do
   c. Read James 1:5 and follow the advice there
   d. Get advice from your boyfriend
8. What would you like to be right now?
   a. Skinny and gorgeous like Brooke Shields
   b. Smart like Jane Pauley
   c. Rich and famous like Olivia Newton-John
   d. A one-of-a-kind edition just like God made you (Psalm 139:4)
9. The one sure way to get everything your heart desires is to:
   a. Marry a rich man
   b. Work yourself to death
   c. Follow after and enjoy yourself in the Lord (Psalm 37:4)
   d. Hope Aunt Lydia dies and leaves you her set of antique china
10. The best way to keep in touch with God is to:
    a. Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
    b. Attend church (Hebrews 10:25)
    c. Work for the Lord (James 2:17)
    d. Read the Bible (Psalm 119:11)
    e. All of the above

ANSWERS: 1-d; 2-c; 3-d; 4-d; 5-b; 6-c; 7-c; 8-d; 9-c; 10-e

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Jan. 1 - Genesis 21:22-24
Jan. 2 - Genesis 40:12-15
Jan. 3 - Genesis 50:12-21
Jan. 4 - Joshua 2:14
Jan. 5 - Joshua 2:18-21
Jan. 6 - 2 Chronicles 10:6-15
Jan. 7 - 2 Chronicles 24:20-24
Jan. 8 - Nehemiah 9:17-20
Jan. 9 - Psalm 19:14
Jan. 10 - Psalm 63:1-7
Jan. 11 - Psalm 138:1-5
Jan. 12 - Psalm 141
Jan. 13 - Proverbs 31:25-28
Jan. 14 - Jeremiah 2:1, 2
Jan. 15 - Joel 2:12-18
Jan. 16 - Jonah 4:1-3
Jan. 17 - Zechariah 13:6
Jan. 18 - Matthew 5:34-37
Jan. 19 - Luke 6:32-38
Jan. 20 - Luke 10:30-36
Jan. 21 - Luke 23:26-34
Jan. 22 - Matthew 7:7-12
Jan. 23 - John 10:41, 42
Jan. 24 - Romans 12:10-16
Jan. 25 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
Jan. 26 - Ephesians 4:31, 32
Jan. 27 - Colossians 3:8-17
Jan. 28 - Titus 3:3-7
Jan. 29 - James 2:21-26
Jan. 30 - James 3:5-8
Jan. 31 - 2 Peter 1:3-9

Youth Leaders Only

THE LIGHTED PATHWAY is your companion for personal growth and encouragement. It is also designed as a supplement for you to use in your weekly youth meetings. Here is how you can use this issue:

* Take ten minutes up front to discuss an important issue dealt with in an article.

* See that everyone participates; don't allow a few to monopolize the discussion.

* Don't take too long. Stop while there are still issues unresolved; then the discussion will continue after the meeting.

WEEK 1:

The Issue: Teen-Parent Relationships I

Resource: "Teen-Parent Communication Quiz," page 26
"How to Talk to Your Parents," page 8

WEEK 2:

The Issue: Teen-Parent Relationships II

Resource: "Getting Along With Your Parents," page 3
"Are You the Person God Intended You to Be?" page 6

WEEK 3:

The Issue: Values That Count

Resource: "Values and Vandals," page 27
"Finding God's Will," page 10

WEEK 4:

The Issue: Checking Your Growth

Resource: "Test Your Christian Manhood," page 20
"Measure Up!" page 22

WEEK 5:

The Issue: Personal Devotions

Resource: "Reading and Studying the Bible Can Be Fun," page 17
"How to Have Daily Devotions," page 13





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PARENT/TEEN COMMUNICATIONS QUIZ

With which parent would you feel more comfortable discussing:

SUBJECT	MOM	DAD	EITHER	NEITHER
Bad grades				
How to make friends				
Dating				
Difficulties at school				
Youth group at church				
Drugs at school				
A friend's problem with drugs				
Feelings of jealousy toward a brother or a sister				
Financial problems				
Your relationship with God				
Death				
The coming of Christ				
An argument with your date				
A relationship with your date that has become too sticky				
Sex				

Communications alert: Which parent do you have more difficulty communicating with? What are you going to do to improve the communication? ☐

EDITORIAL

MARCUS V. HAND
Editor



Values and Vandals

VANDALS SLIPPED INTO a department store one night and switched some price tags. They didn't steal or destroy the merchandise. They just confused the value of things by switching the price tags around.

Next morning, customers were puzzled and delighted to find fur coats selling for $5. Cold cream was priced at $150.

A service of sterling silver bore the price, $1.75.

Umbrellas were $1,000 and diamond rings, $2.

This is what the world is trying to do to us—change our values. For instance, attempts are made through the medium of television.

By the time you were in kindergarten, if you are average, you had witnessed 1,300 murders on TV.

When you reached fifth grade, you had already logged more time in front of the tube than you will have spent in all school classrooms by the time you finish college.

By high school graduation, the average teenager has viewed approximately 15,000 hours of television and the same number of murders.

Slick, subtle, subliminal messages ease into our subconscious from Madison Avenue advertisers. Even the print media makes us feel, too often, that we *have* to have everything. Humanistic programmers and ad writers decide what we watch, what we wear, what we eat, and what we buy.

This constant bombardment of the senses is pervasive. Unless you are alert your values will be distorted. Others whose actions you do not and cannot condone will determine your hobbies and your habits, your food and your fads, your learning and your leisure.

It is natural to strive for human acceptance at school and at play. God's acceptance, however, is more important than peer approval.

Listen to your parents. Communicate with them. Take the initiative. They don't like the hassles and the tensions anymore than you do. Those explosions of anger, those outbursts that disrupt meals and family harmony, are more injurious to you than they are to anyone else. Remember:

1. God selected your parents. The choice was not yours or theirs.

2. God holds them accountable for you until you leave home.

3. God holds you accountable to them until you are on your own (Ephesians 6:1-3).

4. Their decisions and actions are usually based on spiritual principles, not on what others are doing or on current fads.

In your relationship with your parents disagreements will come. They do not, however, have to disrupt family harmony.

Don't allow spiritual vandals to tamper with your values. Don't put a premium on the unimportant, or sell something valuable too cheaply.

Elevate eternal values. They are the significant things in life that build you up and make you more like Jesus Christ. □



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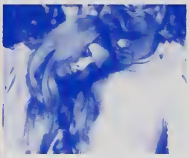
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Looking for LOVE in all the Right Places

by Junus Fulbright, Assistant General Director of Youth and Christian Education

e Reverend Junus Fulbright is the assistant general director of the artment of Youth and Christian tion. An effective youth leader and rchman, he is the ther of two teens nd a six-year-old.



H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

JOHN, FIFTEEN, approached his girlfriend with one hand cupped over the other.

"Jan," he said, "if you can guess what I have in my hand, I'll take you out tonight."

"An elephant?" Jan asked.

"Nope," he replied. "But that's close enough. Pick you up at 7:30."

Like John, you will find a reason for dating. Sometimes it's just any reason. Perhaps you should consider where you are coming from as a Christian and evaluate life's total purpose.

Johnny Lee, a popular country singer, sings a song that contains the lyrics, "Looking for love in all the wrong places." If you become attached to someone you find in a wrong place (where you would be ashamed for Christ to find you), you may find yourself attached to someone who will never welcome Christ into his or her life. Your life would be full of heartaches you can avoid. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14, 15.

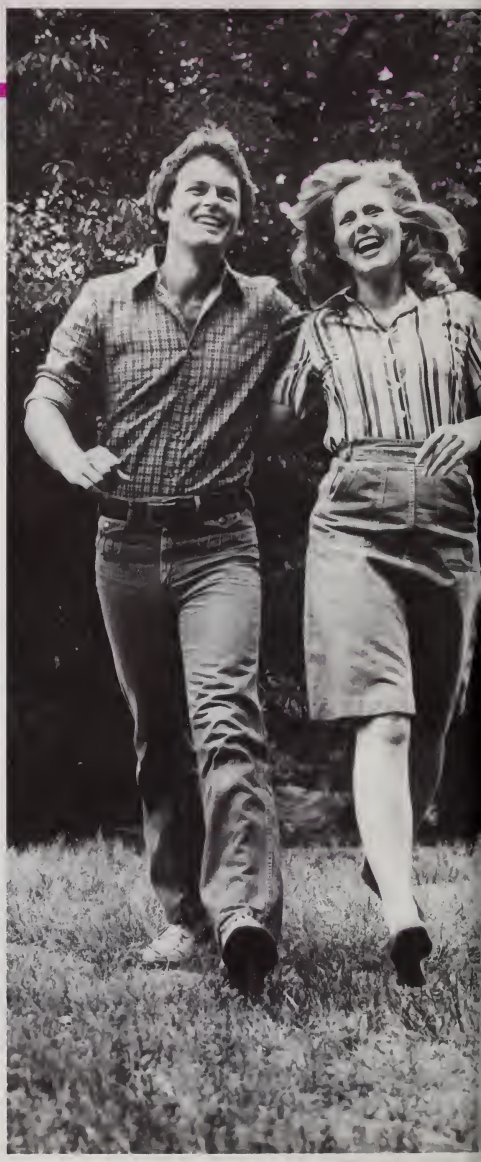
What is a Christian's philosophy of dating? It should be challenging!

Fun!

Crucial!

Josh McDowell, a renowned Christian family expert, lists the following reasons for dating:

(a) *Socialization*—where you learn a lot about yourself and how to be sensitive to other people



(b) *Personality development*—discovering your identity

(c) *Growth in Christ*

(d) *Selection of a mate*

Most teens and young adults look for those to whom they can relate and eventually, sometime in life, select as a life's partner in marriage. This can be an exciting, rewarding time. Or, it can be frustrating—a time of dishonest use and abuse with you as the victim or villain.

So let's talk about you! If you accept the reasons listed above for dating, Josh McDowell gives ten guidelines which help determine where to find a date and where to go while dating.

1. Be yourself—don't present yourself as someone you are not.
2. Be creative—do away with dull dating.
3. Be sociable—date often in groups and with your friends.
4. Be neat—care about yourself and how you look; neatness counts a lot.
5. Be sensitive—what you do, where you go, and how you act make a big impact on your date.
6. Be firm—if you are not mature enough to say no, you are probably not mature enough to date.
7. Be spiritual—put Jesus Christ in the center of your date life.
8. Be happy—know that you are special because you are loved by Jesus Christ.
9. Be smart—use your brains while dating.
10. Be excited—John 10:10, Jesus said, "I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

Where can you go on a date? What is there to do? Misguided youth know only drinking, smoking pot, petting, or premarital sex. But what about Christian youth? Your problem is not in finding something to do, but finding time to do all the varied and creative things available. If you wish to go somewhere as a spectator and watch

others perform, there are ball games every week of the year, recitals, and concerts. In some areas, there are excellent art and historical museums to visit. Occasionally, there is wholesome television entertainment you could watch while enjoying some delicious popcorn and other treats. These are all spectator activities.

To get to know your date and yourself better, to socialize, to experience personality development, and to grow in Christ, you should concentrate on participation activities. These can include different types of sports such as tennis, golf, bowling, skating, bicycling, boating, volleyball, handball, shuffleboard, badminton, ping-pong, hiking, mountain climbing, and other things. It can also involve both sets of parents and include games, singing, and music. Contrary to popular opinion, many inexpensive or free activities offer great opportunities for fun and getting to know the person.

Dating and courtship should involve being active in your church's life. You can be involved in collecting and repairing toys for neglected children. You can help plan a progressive supper for the youth of your church, or plan and direct a picnic for underprivileged children. You can enlist other couples to go with you to retirement homes, where you will introduce yourself, conduct a devotional, and encourage those who are often neglected.

Ewing Galloway Photo

After the visit the group may conclude a beautiful evening together at a pizza restaurant or an ice cream parlor.

There are a lot of good, wholesome things to do and places to go on a date. Creative ingenuity in selecting different dating activities helps you develop as a total person.

So, dream your dream of life.

Open your eyes as wide as they will open and look far ahead into your future.

You can look for love in all the right places. □

YOUTH LEADER SPOTLIGHT



Junus Fulbright
Assistant General Director of Youth and Christian Education

Birthplace: Hickory, North Carolina

Home: Cleveland, TN

Wife's name: Barbara

Children: Tanya, Shana, Abigail

Favorite snack food: Peanut butter, chocolate candy, cookies

Favorite sport: Softball and swimming

Best advice you ever received: Never give up!

Worst advice you ever received: It's too hard!

Close friends say you are: Honest and open

One thing you would change if you could: Have more hair

Favorite song: "God's Grace Is Sufficient"

Favorite scripture: John 3:16

Most important lesson you have learned: No one stands alone

If you were not in youth ministry, you would be: A pastor

Your greatest joy in youth ministry is: Seeing the lives of youth touched and changed by the Gospel

Knowing what you know now, if you were a teenager you would: Strive to be real . . . dedicated to Christ . . . not pushy or pharisaical . . . honestly share my faith at every opportunity □



"We don't have anything to do" is not a valid complaint, says the Reverend Richard Dial. An effective communicator, he is coordinator of youth ministries for the General Department of Youth and Christian Education.

Twenty-Five Things To Do on a Date

by Richard Dial

DATING ALWAYS gave me problems.

Either I couldn't get a date or if I got one I didn't have any money. If I had money and a date, I didn't know where to take the girl!

The fact that I was a Christian compounded the problem. I wanted my dating life to come under the lordship of Christ, but I often struggled in this area. There was the question of our conduct together. And what was an appropriate activity for a Christian couple?

I am sure Christian teenagers of the 80's struggle with these same problems. Let me suggest some ways to help you maintain balance in your social life.

First of all, *don't feel like you have to date.* I realize that there is tremendous pressure on teenagers to date and to date steadily. Many young people feel like second-class citizens because they don't have a date every weekend. It's natural for you to desire social relationships with the opposite sex. However, you need to let it happen: Don't force it.

If you aren't going on a date every weekend, big deal. The whole dating process is preliminary to marriage and there is no correlation between frequency of dating and having a happy marriage. You and the young people of your church should consider group dating. This means simply planning to do things together and including everyone who wants to go. This helps to relieve the pressure of "it's Friday night again and I don't have a date."

Ewing Galloway Photo

Second, *consider the advantages of double dating or triple dating if you drive something bigger than a Volkswagon, or even quadruple dating if you have access to a Greyhound bus.* Seriously, there is a lot to be said for dating with other couples. If you are just getting to know one another, going out with other couples will ease the communication pressure; you won't have to supply 50 percent of the evening's conversation. If you have been dating the same person for some time, double dating will help you maintain control of your dating conduct.

Finally, *be honest with yourself and your date.* You know the intent of your heart and what you expect out of a date. Don't arrange a situation, fall into temptation, and then say, "It just happened; I couldn't help myself." If you honestly want your dating life to be pleasing to Christ, don't allow yourself to be put in a situation you cannot handle. This is why it is important for your dating to be creative. God wants you to enjoy yourself and have fun, but He doesn't want you to sell out your future.

Let me suggest twenty-five things Christians can do on a date, in addition to going to church or Bible study. This list isn't exhaustive and I'm sure you can come up with many other ideas on your own.

1. Go hiking. This may not appeal to everyone, but if you and your date are the outdoor types, it can be a pleasant morning or afternoon date.

2. Have a breakfast date. Get up early on a Saturday and start the day off right.

3. Play table games with other couples. Play Monopoly, Clue, Trivial Pursuit, or Uno. Pop some popcorn, drink some colas, and just have a great time.

4. Go to a Christian concert. Be on the lookout for concerts coming into your area.

5. Go to the zoo.

6. Play tennis. Invite another couple and play mixed doubles.

7. Go shopping. If you don't have any money make a game of it. Give each couple an identical list of things to buy. Each couple should go through the mall and price each item on the list. The object is to find the most expensive items. The couple with the highest total wins.

8. Go restaurant hopping. Go to one restaurant for salad, to another for the main course. Finish at another with dessert.

9. Visit a museum. If you live near a large city, there are many fascinating exhibits and lectures at museums and art galleries.

10. Go jogging. Not everyone is in to this but for those who are, jogging can be an enjoyable date.

11. Cook a meal together. Work out a menu. Shop for the food and cook the meal together.

12. Build a snowman or snow fort. When the first big snow of the year hits, call a date and a few other couples and have a ball.

13. Go to an amusement park. This is always a sure winner.

14. Go horseback riding.

15. Fly kites. Do it with another couple and have a contest to see who can get their kite to fly the highest.

16. Bowl.

17. Play video games at your house.

18. Go on a picnic and take your frisbee. If you don't like frisbee, take a badminton set.

19. Go to a park and enjoy yourself. There is nothing wrong with acting like a kid every once in awhile.

20. Play miniature golf.

21. Go to a school athletic function.

22. Have several couples over and make candy.

23. Go to a church youth activity together.

24. Go skating, roller and ice.

25. Take your date snow sledding or tobogganing.

These are just a few suggestions. The important thing is for you to control your date life. Don't let it control you.

A Christian must give honor to God in his social life as well as in his religious life. □

Know someone who deserves a journalism scholarship?

The Evangelical Press Association, a non-profit corporation composed of some 275 Christian periodicals, is vitally interested in the future of religious journalism.

The Association annually provides at least two $500 scholarships to deserving college students committed to a career in Christian communications. Applicants must have completed their second year of college.

Further details and application forms are available. (Forms must be completed and returned by April 1.)

Write now to:
Executive Secretary
Evangelical Press Association
P.O. Box 4550
Overland Park, Kansas 66204

epa

Dating Data

WHEN ASKING FOR A DATE

1. Ask her properly
   —Ask when no one else is listening.
   —Ask when you have the time to do it properly.
   —Ask by telephone if the above are not possible
2. Ask her confidently
   —Relax. Be casual. Chances are she won't bite.
   —Avoid "feeler" questions, such as "What are you doing Friday night?" or "Do you like miniature golf?"
   —Ask her for the date! Don't mumble and don't talk too loudly.
3. Ask her appropriately
   —The occasion will dictate appropriateness.
   —For a big Saturday night concert, don't wait until Friday to ask.
   —It is not necessary to ask two weeks in advance if you just want to go to the shopping mall.



IF YOU CAN'T GET A DATE . . .

If you can't get a date ask yourself,

1. Do I turn people off?
2. Am I unfriendly?
3. Am I obnoxious?
4. Do I dress in a way that is unacceptable to other young people?

In order to change your social life,

a. Develop a healthy self-esteem.
b. Show an interest in other people.
c. Be fun to be with.
d. Improve your appearance by the way you dress or fix your hair.

WHEN YOU ARE ASKED FOR A DATE

1. Consider the person
   —Listen attentively even when you know you will refuse.
   —Do you want to be with this person on this occasion?
   —Will your relationship to Christ suffer if you go out with him?
2. Consider the occasion
   —Do you want to participate in the activity he's suggesting?
   —Do rides at the amusement park or eating Mexican food make you ill?
   —Will this date help or hinder your Christian witness?
3. Consider the time
   —Do you have any conflicts
   —Will it keep you from fulfilling another obligation?
   —Accept graciously or refu honestly and discreetly.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND

CINDY HAMILTON

How to impress, in the wrong way, the girl of your dreams. . . .



by Dave Anson

Ewing Galloway Photo

I DON'T UNDERSTAND Cindy Hamilton! Ever since she first came to our youth group at church, I've liked her.

"I'm going to ask her out," I told my best friend, Hank.

"Go for it, Dave!" He gave me a light punch on the shoulder. "She's a great girl! You going to ask her to a ball game at school?"

I stared at him. "Are you kidding? Man, that's not nearly good enough for a first date with Cindy Hamilton! Don't you know her dad's a doctor and she lives on 'The Hill'? She's not the kind you take to a ball game and the Burger Roost afterward!"

Hank shrugged. "Why not? We've taken other girls there on first dates. We all go in a gang after a game, anyway. If you don't ask Cindy to a ball game, where are you going to take her?"

"To Juanito's for dinner!" I grinned. "Juanito's is one of the best restaurants in the whole city! It costs at least $50 for two, with no drinks, which we wouldn't have, of course."

"Juanito's?" Hank was really impressed. "Man, I didn't know you had cash like that!"

"I don't," I admitted. "At least, not yet. But I will have! I'll start saving right away."

I went to the ball game with Hank and some of the guys. The girls sat near us and we all went out together afterward in a group. Except for Cindy. She said she had to go home and finish some homework. I knew it was really because the Burger Roost wasn't her kind of place. I almost offered to take her home, but she had her own car, so I knew it wouldn't work out.

I started saving my money and taking on any odd job I could find. It's really amazing how it can add up, even a couple of dollars at a time. By the end of two weeks I had $25.

"Why don't you ask Cindy to the Regional Youth Banquet?" Hank asked me.

I shook my head. "Not for the first date. It's got to be Juanito's for that! After I take her there, I can ask her to some of this little stuff."

"I don't call the banquet 'little.' " Hank said. "You could double with Ginny and me."

"No, thanks."

I went to the banquet alone, and watched for Cindy to come in. When she did, I did a double take. She was with Lou Mantz and they were doubling with Hank and Ginny.

As soon as I could, I got Hank alone. "How could you do this to me? You know I'm working like crazy to get the money to take Cindy to Juanito's! Why'd you let Lou come with her?"

"I don't decide who dates who!" Hank snapped. "Lou told me he'd asked Cindy and could we all go together, because he doesn't have a car."

"Well, I'll make sure he gets the word!"

The banquet was no fun for me. I kept watching Lou and Cindy.

The next day I talked to Lou. I explained about Cindy and how I was saving my money. I made it plain that she was mine; I just needed a little more time. I told him Cindy was worth a lot more than a youth banquet to me.

"Hey, man, I didn't know you two had something coming up," Lou said. "Cindy never said anything and I never saw you together. She's great, but I don't want to break up anything. . . ."

"Thanks, Lou." I grinned to show him there were no hard feelings.

For two more weeks I worked and saved my money. Cindy came up to me a couple of times in the hall and after church and said, "Hi, Dave." I talked to her, but I didn't say anything about Juanito's, of course. You can't ask a girl there without having the cash to take her. We just chatted about school and stuff.

Cindy came with the other girls to ball games and youth meetings. Not many of our church youth group go steady, so we do most things as a group. I couldn't talk to Cindy much that way, but I knew when we got to Juanito's we could talk all we wanted.

None of the other guys paid much attention to Cindy. They knew what I was planning. Oh, they were nice to her, but were just friendly like Christian brothers should be. They didn't ask her out.

Finally I had enough money for Juanito's, including tax and tip. I even had enough to get a corsage for Cindy, and a new tie for me. Juanito's requires coats and ties.

"Today's the day I ask Cindy," I told Hank. "I called Juanito's and we have reservations for Friday night."

Hank wasn't as enthusiastic as I'd expected. "I hope it goes okay," was all he said.

I waited for Cindy at her locker after school. I had planned I would walk her out to the parking lot and her car. That way I could ask her in private about Friday night.

"Hi, Cindy." I gave her my best smile as she came up to her locker. "Can I walk you to your car? There's something I want to ask you."

"Is it about going to Juanito's?"

I gulped. "How did you know?"

"The word's gotten around." She opened her locker and turned her back to me as she reached for some books. "I appreciate your asking me, Dave, but I don't want to go out with you."

It took almost a minute for what she'd said to register on my brain. "You don't want to go with me to Juanito's?" I couldn't believe it!

"Not to Juanito's or anywhere else, actually."

"But why not? I've been working and saving for this for weeks—ever since I first met you."

Cindy turned around to face me. She didn't look mad, really; just sort of—well, maybe like a little sad.

"Yes, you've been saving to take me to Juanito's," Cindy said. "But you couldn't ask me anywhere else. I thought you were a nice guy, fun to be with, but you thought I was a snob. You thought I was someone you had to impress with a place like Juanito's. You didn't want to take me to a ball game or church or anything like that."

"I wanted our first date to be really special!" I argued.

"And while we waited for that, you made sure none of the other Christian guys would date me." Now she sounded a little more angry. "You thought you had to impress me, but you were impressing yourself more! You liked bragging about planning to take me to Juanito's! You thought of me as a snob! Well, now you've done what you wanted to do! You've asked me to Juanito's!"

She took her books and started down the hall before I could say anything.

I just watched her go, and thought of all the hours I'd worked to save the money for Juanito's. And she hadn't cared at all! She actually acted like she wished I hadn't!

Like I said, I don't understand Cindy Hamilton at all! □

How Teens View Dating, Marriage and Divorce



Paul M. Schrock Photo

GOD WANTS US to take the whole business of dating, love, and marriage seriously. Here are some findings compiled from *American Demographics, Youthletter,* and *Teen.*

—Age 15 or 16 is the ideal age to begin dating. . . .

—Only 15 percent start dating at age 13. . . .

—Only 5 percent say they would wait until 17 or older. . . .

—Amusements and going out to eat top the list of most popular things to do on a date. . . .

—Nearly all teens say they plan to marry some day. . . .

—The majority of teens are against divorce. . . .

—More than 75 percent say that current divorce laws are too lax. . . .

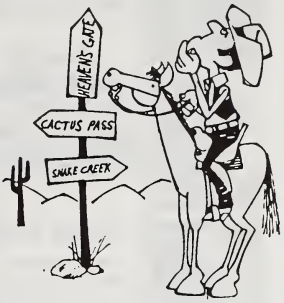
—81 percent of church-going teens believe that divorce is too easy to obtain. . . .

—Only 17 percent feel that it's too difficult to get a divorce. . . . □



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CORRECTION:

Several alert teens caught the typographical error on page 20 of last month's issue. The answer to question 9 is, obviously, *d*—not *e*. If you caught the mistake, add two extra points to your score!

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

APRIL 30, MAY 1, 2



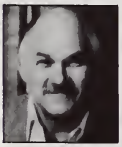
Barry St. Clair

Barry is director of *Reach Out Ministries* and an author for Son Power Youth Ministry Publications.



Larry Keefauver

Larry is pastor of Parkway Christian Church, co-author of *Friend to Friend* and author of *Starting a Youth Ministry.*



J. David Stone

Dave is president of Youth Ministries Consultation Service, professor of Youth Ministry at Centenary College and editor of *Complete Youth Ministries Handbook.*

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

A historic meeting will take place this spring, just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. The first ever National Youth Leaders Conference will convene. In addition to workshops and seminars, a National Youth Pastors Fellowship will be formed.

For further information

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to:

General Department of Youth and Christian Education
P.O. Box 2430 • Cleveland, TN 37311

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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

Create Your Own Dating Code

DATING CUSTOMS differ all over the world.

In many countries young people don't date. "Arranged marriages" are the norm. Parents select the mates of their children. In Africa the price of the dowry is the most important part of most marriages.

I once attended a Solola Indian wedding in Guatemala. The small village is located on the banks of a clear blue mountain lake called "Lake Atitlan." The little-girl bride was playing with her friends when the prospective groom and his party arrived at her house and announced he wanted to get married.

Three days of nonstop negotiations with her father followed. The elaborate ritual included much eating and drinking and involved both families. The entire village watched, not to see if the wedding would come off but to see who could drive the best "bargain." When the bride's father consented to a price and the exchange was made, the wedding began.

For all practical purposes, the bride wasn't involved until the ceremony was ready to begin. The couple got acquainted with each other during the next six months, when custom decreed that they live with her family.

Most Latin cultures do not allow young people to socialize with the opposite sex unchaperoned. Even after they are engaged, a third party accompanies the couple on a "date."

Unmarried adolescents in most western countries have much more freedom to select their mates and to socialize. Yet, dating customs differ from area to area and group to group, even in the United States.

To illustrate, in some groups it's a strict "no-no" for a girl to ask a boy for a date. In other groups it is acceptable. Still others make exceptions for the senior prom or other special occasions.

Lighted Pathway suggests that your youth group meet and create your own dating code. Why should the world set your agenda or determine your customs for you? Here are some obvious advantages:

* Your dating code will be based on Christian principles, not on worldly standards.

* You will know what kind of behavior to expect from your peers.

* You will be learning to apply biblical principles to daily living.

* You will find yourself increasing in confidence as you grow in Christ.

SELECTING A DATE

1. What is the most comical thing that ever happened to you on a date?

2. Describe an ideal date—time, place to go, things to do, dress, transportation, and so forth.

3. Do you know a couple who were great friends until they began dating? What do you think happened?

4. List five reasons for a couple to date.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

5. What are some things that make a couple attractive to you?

6. What are your alternatives should you be turned down, or not asked? _____

_____

WHAT TURNS ME OFF

Girls say:

"When I see a guy light up a cigarette it turns me off. Smoking is bad for your health. It stains your teeth and gives you bad breath. I don't like breathing polluted, secondhand breath, so I know right away I don't want to go out with that person."

"When a guy I know only casually buys me an expensive gift, I'm turned off. Costly presents are usually given to impress, but they make me feel uncomfortable. Sometimes it's obvious he can't afford it and even if he can, I don't like it. This is not the way to get my attention."

"I'm turned off if the guy doesn't care about his personal appearance. Clothes don't have to be expensive, but I can't stand someone who's sloppy all the time. His posture and his personal hygiene show how much he respects himself. If he doesn't respect himself, he probably won't respect me either."

Guys say:

"When a girl comes on too strong she turns me off. I don't mind someone letting me know she's interested, but then I want her to back off and give me a chance. When a girl comes on like a gangbuster, I find her unattractive."

"A girl flirts to have fun, I guess, and to let a guy know she's interested. But I'm turned off by the girl who flirts with every boy she sees. If I'm dating a girl and she flirts with someone else, I won't go out with her again."

"I don't like gossips. When I hear a girl stabbing her friend in the back, this turns me off. Loudmouth, abrasive girls who constantly talk about other people are not the ones I want to date."

DECIDING WHAT TO DO

1. List some activities and/or places that are off limits to you as a Christian.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. What are some things that say to you a guy/girl is courteous?

_____

_____

3. How important is your parents' advice when it comes to your dating life?

_____

_____

4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:14, 15.

5. "Love does not get us into problems, wrong relationships do."

6. Guidelines

—Is this activity compatible with my Christian testimony?

—Will it give us an opportunity to get to know each other better?

—Will it relieve the pressure of either of us having to perform or impress?

THE LIFESTYLE OF LOVE

The thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians is often called a hymn of love. Although it has probably been quoted more times than any other single chapter in Scripture, it remains a universal favorite. Read the passage aloud from your Bible.

—Verses 1-3 tell the language of love.

—Verses 4-8a give the lifestyle of love.

—Verses 8b-13 explain the leadership of love.

Discuss this comparison of verses 4-8a in the *Phillips* translation, *New International Version*, *Living Bible*, and *New American Standard Bible*.

Phillips says . . .	*NIV says . . .*	*Living Bible says . . .*	*NASB says . . .*
This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience	Is patient	Is patient	Is patient
It looks for a way of being constructive	Is kind	Is kind	Is kind
It is not possessive	Does not envy	Is never jealous or envious	Is not jealous
It is neither anxious to impress	Does not boast	Never boastful	Does not brag
Nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance	Is not proud	Never proud	Is not arrogant
Love has good manners	Is not rude	Never haughty or selfish or rude	Does not act unbecomingly
It does not pursue selfish advantage	Is not self-seeking	Does not demand its own way	Does not seek its own
It is not touchy	Is not easily angered	Is not irritable or touchy	Is not provoked
It does not keep account of evil	Keeps no records of wrongs	Does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong	Does not take into account a wrong suffered
Or gloat over the wickedness of other people	Does not delight in evil	Is never glad about injustice	Does not rejoice in unrighteousness
It shares the joy of those who live by the truth	Rejoices with the truth	Rejoices whenever truth wins out	Rejoices with the truth
Love knows no limit to its endurance	Always protects	You will be loyal no matter what the cost	Bears all things
No end to its trust	Always trusts	You will always believe in him	Believes all things
No fading of its hope	Always hopes	Always expects the best of him	Hopes all things
It can outlast anything	Always perseveres	Always stand your ground in defending him	Endures all things
Love never fails	Love never fails	Love goes on forever	Love never fails

When girls get together, they talk about clothes, hair styles, school, famous personalities, other people, and boys. Boys talk to each other about cars, sports, work, and girls. When they get together, however, they sometimes find it awkward to talk to each other.

On a date boys should refrain from talking or joking in a crude way. Look for a subject of mutual interest. Find out what she likes and lead the conversation in that direction. Although she is courteous and listens politely while you explain the way a microcomputer chip works, that doesn't mean she wants to spend the evening discussing high tech electronics.

To hide their nervousness girls sometimes behave in a sarcastic manner. They roll their eyes or make other nonverbal gestures that cause guys to feel ill at ease. Or they spend the evening fiddling with their hair or redoing their personal appearance.

Silence can create anxiety and nervousness on a date. It can be deadly to a potential friendship. An atmosphere of total silence often leads to unfortunate social blunders.

Too much talk, on the other hand, or the wrong kind of talk, can be equally disastrous. Refrain from negative topics. Avoid mindless chatter that seldom allows the other person to say anything.

—Ask leading questions, not the yes and no kind.

—Ask questions that evoke a response or explanation.

—Read Ephesians 4:29-31.

—In your dating manual, write a section called "Guidelines to Good Conversation." □



LOVE

by Phyllys Bare Wozniak

Missionary-Teacher in the Dominican Republic

ON A BRISK February afternoon I finally met Him. I had heard about Him for many years. My parents had known Him since before I was born; they had often told me about Him. Almost everyone I knew had heard about Him, but somehow all those who had met Him were different. Although I wanted to meet Him, I was always too involved in my own interests when He came to visit.

On that wintry afternoon though, I had become completely disillusioned with my own interests. So, when Jesus knocked on my door, I did not even hesitate to open it. Somehow, even before I got the door unlocked, I knew it was He who waited on the other side.

As the door swung open, I looked into the rugged face of One who had suffered many things. As my eyes met His, I realized that He had never been made bitter by His sufferings. Just looking into His eyes made me ashamed of all the bitterness, hatred, selfishness, and rebellion I had inside.

As I stepped aside to let Him walk through the door, I knew my life would never be the same.

Love had come my way.

"God is love. He that knoweth God knoweth love." □



How Much Touch?

by Nathanael Pugh

Touching is an important part of expressing love properly. Yet, Christians are told to be cautious about touching on a date. Here are some guidelines for helping you solve this dilemma.

Alan Cliburn Photo

SHOWING ANOTHER person that you care for him or her is naturally expressed by touch. It is natural for our bodies to want to get in on the act. The closeness you feel toward the person drives you to express that feeling by contact. The big question is how much physical involvement is needed or required for balanced development of the total relationship.

Too much touch will not allow you to get to know the other person as an individual.

Too little touch may make your dating partner feel that you feel no affection for him. Before we draw the line, let's put it all in perspective.

Level 1. Personal Level— Somebody meets your approval as far as looks go, and seems to have his act together. You feel attracted to him. As you get to know him, you discover that his personality complements yours. You have many of the same interests; your sense of humor runs along the same wavelength. The more you are with him the more you find yourself sharing with him. All the masks and facades begin to crumble and the real you starts to show through. You discover that you have similar attitudes toward life.

Larry Richards puts it this way: "Getting to know a guy or gal on this personal level is a big thing, and complicated. It takes seeing him or her under all kinds of conditions. Getting to know a person is far more than sitting in a car and grabbing, or being grabbed. And

it's a lot more than spending all your time together, alone."

Level 2. Affection Level—At the same time you are getting to know him as a person you begin to progress to another level. Richards goes on: "At first it's just fun; you enjoy being together. With some people it never goes beyond this—and that's OK. You can still have fun with them. But a few you'll like better than most. If you've dated around enough to know quite a few kids casually, you'll find one or two you like better than others. Here you're focusing in on romance, and will probably start experiencing love feelings. (It's important to remember here, though, to apply the time test. Lots of loves will probably enter your life—and exit—before you finally settle.) In special cases the love feelings will match up with liking. You'll appreciate and respect him or her as a person, as well as feel strongly attracted."

There are times when the affection level will run ahead of the personal level. I've heard young people exclaim, "I'd marry him/her tomorrow!" Maybe you would, but would it be the best thing for you? Getting to know somebody as an individual comes before true love and affection. Get to know the person for what he really is instead of what you picture him in your mind to be. And that will take some time.

Level 3. Physical Level—As the relationship draws you closer together, the need of more physical contact may be felt. Very often the first step is holding hands and then an arm around a receptive shoulder or waist. The next step is usually a kiss, and then more kissing and so on. If this trend continues much further, it can lead to emotional and spiritual problems that God did not mean for you to face.

The Bible is right. The rules laid down in its pages are not to restrict, but to liberate. God knew that past a certain point, in the physical contact stage, pangs of guilt would puncture the picture. An attitude of lust may begin to take root in the heart. A loss of respect for the partner, plus a loss of self-respect would occur. The spiritual ties with God would be severed. An act that is meant to seal a commitment would be performed with no strings attached. From the beginning God knew what was best for man. He knew that a certain amount of self-discipline would be involved, not to frustrate but to make us aware of the importance of a vow.

DRAWING THE LINE

For the good of any relationship there must be a boundary drawn somewhere so that both individuals know what the limitations are. It is my own belief that the line should be drawn at the kiss. The line holds true not only for the first date, but until the marriage altar.

So the date is a few minutes from being over. As our couple, out on their first date with each other, walk to her door, the tension begins to mount. The boy wonders if he should try to kiss her, and the girl either hopes he will or hopes he won't. Temporary panic sets in as both wonder what the other is thinking.

Freeze the couple. Put yourself in their shoes and ask yourself the question, "What do I want this kiss to mean?"

It could mean, "Thanks for the nice evening," or, "I really enjoyed myself and I'd like to go out with you again," or, "Here, take this, you nerd, and get out of here."

Dawson McAllister says, "If you want it to symbolize a thank you, or a handshake, that's one thing. The problem, however, is that your date may not interpret quite the same way—and you already have communication hassles before you've even started." Your date may view your "Enjoyed the date" little peck as an "I'm madly in love with you" smooch.

Unfreeze the couple. Let's say that they kiss on their first date. It wasn't anything real mushy, just a little goodnight kiss. He thought about what he wanted it to mean and decided he wanted to convey his appreciation for a wonderful time together. (Some guys have a way of making a girl feel guilty if she doesn't give him a kiss as "payment" for all of the money he just spent on her.) Now, that's sweet. But what

happens when he wants to express a feeling such as, "I think you are a really terrific person and I want our relationship to grow and grow for a long time"? What will he do then? He has already expended his ace card back on the doorstep on the first date.

Let's look at it this way. Amid the violins playing, birds singing, wedding bells ringing, and all of the thrills and chills that accompany a first kiss, do you realize that you have gone as far as you can conscientiously go as a Christian? You just blew it! You have nothing more to look forward to until your wedding night.

But you don't want to marry this person, right? Just one night, one date, one kiss, and bring on another date. Right? Just think how common it would be to realize that your husband or wife has kissed many other guys or girls and that you really aren't special.

"But all I want is just one little kiss and it will satisfy me." It may for a few dates. But the same craving that was satisfied by the kiss will again open its cavern-like jaws to be filled with something more. At first, just kissing would satisfy. But before even that begins to lose the thrill it once held, a couple may find themselves having to go to more extremes in order to duplicate the thrills and chills the first kiss brought. Any relationship built on emotions will never last. Emotions shift so frequently that you might find your relationship without a base. Besides, God didn't mean it to be that way.

FRIENDSHIP

If any relationship is going to succeed, it must be built on friendship and not on dim-lighted excitement. Anybody can kiss. A person does not have to be very old or all there mentally to know how to pucker the ol' lips. You are nobody great just because you possess the knowledge of what kissing is all about. Don't go bragging about your adventures. Millions could do the same thing if they wanted.

Although anybody can kiss, not everybody can be a good, dependable friend. People will kiss and leave the kisser but come back time and again to the one who offers friendship. Friendship must be the base of any solid relationship, not physical affection.

If you go out on a date with someone who showers you with affection, it is not hard to see why he likes you. He does not care that much for you as a person; he is in it for the thrills. He is not in love with you. You are just one more date; chalk up one more kiss. Don't get any ideas that you are special to him. If he will show you that much affection, don't you think that he does the same thing to every other date he has?

Some have it all backward. He tries to see how far he can go and how much he can get instead of seeing how pure, holy and godly he can become. Instead of trying to become more like Jesus, he tries to push his conscience to its limits. This type of person can never provide a healthy relationship with another Christian young person.

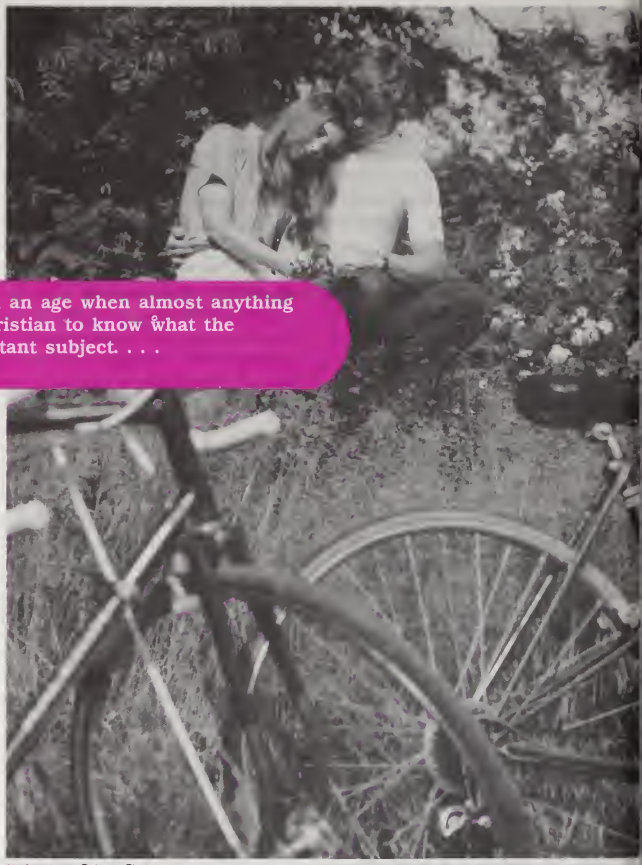
WAIT

It is best to wait a while before you start throwing your kisses away to every date you have. Find out what kind of person he is. Wait to see if you even like him. Since kissing is the place where the line should be drawn, it seems to me that it would be good to save your affections for someone who really matters, someone with whom you have established a friendship.

It will never turn your date off if you say, "No, let's wait until we at least get to know each other." He will respect you for it. Otherwise you are just one more to brag about to his friends the next day. If you tell him to wait, then a challenge is presented and in most cases it will be pursued.

Your evening is much more relaxed because the boy is not wondering when he should make his move, and if he has bad breath. The girl is not uptight either. Both can have an enjoyable time getting to know each other. There is a time and a place for all things. But the first several dates is not the time or the place for the kiss. ☐

Is "smooching" in the Bible? In an age when almost anything goes, it is important for the Christian to know what the Scriptures say about this important subject. . . .



H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

NECKING AND PETTING are two terms we hear thrown around a lot but often they are not very well defined. When does a person begin to pet or at what point is it considered necking?

Necking is the next step after kissing. In fact, it stems from kissing. Not just your "good-night kiss" but a long, lingering "super kiss." In fact, several kisses that may last for quite some time. Now all of this isn't done while the couple is ten feet apart. They are holding each other tightly.

Petting is more intense than necking. It is meant to be the arousal stage before total involvement. It involves caressing and fondling.

The problem with necking and petting is they were not designed by God to be satisfying. It will never put out the fire, only add fuel to it. Larry Richards comments,

lecking, Petting nd Intimacy

lathanael Pugh

"Biologically, petting isn't designed to *satisfy* our emotions, but to *stimulate* and *excite* us, and lead to the fullest expression in marriage. That's why in the long run, petting is frustrating. Those who pet on dates have taken something out of its biological context as a means to an end, and are trying to use it as an end in itself."

Oliver Barclay says in his pamphlet, *A Time to Embrace*, "The various forms of petting are the natural prelude to the intimacies of marriage. Failure to realize this physiological purpose can lead to some serious consequences."

By serious consequences I don't mean that you will be locked up in a prison for 20 years or banished to Siberia. But the single person who goes beyond what nature and God intended will face various inward problems that can be worse than actual prison bars.

1. Guilt will be an immediate feeling after going beyond the line we have drawn. A dirty feeling will envelope the heart. A feeling of paranoia may accompany the guilt.

2. A loss of self-worth will also occur. You may begin to think of yourself as cheap, unwanted and used.

3. A sensual appetite is created in your life. Before you tasted the fruit of sensuality you had no craving for it. But now since you have had the experience, the carnal hunger is there and demands to be fed.

4. Frustration will set in because you realize that you can never conscientiously satisfy the appetite on the single side of marriage.

5. Many will begin to question the Bible and its standards as to whether they apply to today's circumstances or not. They begin to look at life in a distorted way. They begin to twist verses of Scripture out of context to support their contorted beliefs.

6. If the desire is kindled and the persons continue in the way they are headed, there will come a time the inward convictions will be assaulted by sensuous desire to the point of totally breaking down. No longer will they feel the guilt they once felt and they assume this means that it's OK.

We forgot to mention that all the while the person is participating in his immoral activities, his foothold on a good name slips out from under him. He finds himself labeled with a bad reputation.

"But the Bible doesn't say anything about such things as necking. Or petting—light or heavy." Just because the Bible doesn't say that we can't, does it imply that we can? I think not.

We must understand that commitment, and not love, is the issue. We are supposed to love our neighbor. But that does not mean that we are to take our neighbor parking to prove that we have love for him or her. Realize that the more intimate acts of necking and petting are designed by God to show the totality of our commitment to one person *after* we have made a public commitment of ". . . til death do us part."

We must also realize that the Bible does say something about necking and petting. Just because Paul did not use today's lingo doesn't mean that he didn't address the issue. He used some big words that not very many ever stop to understand. (See 1 Corinthians 7:1.)

DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL TERMS

Defrauding (1 Thessalonians 4:6). Defrauding means to arouse sensual passion or desires in another person which cannot righteously be satisfied. These desires can be aroused by excessive and continual touching or caressing. They

may also be aroused by words or a manner of speech. What a person does or does not wear can also come under the heading of defrauding.

In other words, defrauding means trying to "turn someone on" knowing full well that you will not and cannot satisfy the drive that you are building within him or her.

Lasciviousness (Galatians 5:19). Lasciviousness tends to produce lustful emotions. It is the drive within a person that will cause him to curiously experiment with the things that God has wisely declared "off limits." God intended that we know evil, not by experience, but by recognizing that it is not in accord with His Spirit living within us. If a person allows curiosity to lead him into areas of knowing about evil, he runs the big risk of being "drawn away by (his) own lust and enticed" (James 1:14).

Concupiscence (1 Thessalonians 4:4, 5). Concupiscence is an abnormally strong sexual appetite. It is only gained after having gone too far in the past.

The Bible is right! "God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light. They warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them" (Psalm 19:7, 8, 11; *Living Bible).*

I have talked with several married couples who stepped over the line before they were married and not one is glad they did. In fact, all of them have said that it hindered their marriage relationship in one way or another.

A group of three thousand young people were interviewed about their views of the physical aspect of dating. Not one of them said, "Yeah, tell everybody to pet. It's great!" Not one. With evidence like that from people who have been there, do you need to try it out for yourself to see if it might be harmful?

I recently read the testimony from an eighteen-year-old midwestern girl named Christie. She has learned from experience the guidelines to follow. I would like to share her story with you.

"I have been going with a guy for two years, and only in the last month has the problem of sex finally been solved in a way satisfactory to me. It was always a question of 'how far can we go?' As one who has almost gone too far (by the grace of God, we didn't) I will give my answer, which I probably would not have accepted two years ago. Kissing, I now feel, is the farthest, and I do not mean a passionate embrace. I mean kissing, with little, if any, other bodily contact. It's just too easy to arouse a guy sexually and I think a girl should realize what she's doing to him, and for his sake not get too passionate. The thing is to never start going beyond what you know is right.

"I would also say this: Never worry about your relationship developing too slowly. I don't really think it's possible for a relationship that may last a lifetime to develop too slowly. Take your time getting to know each other. DON'T see each other every day. Be with each other in groups, not by yourself. Don't spend all your weekend time with each other. Be with other girls or guys. Get to know each other like this before there is any thought of being romantic.

"And realize that guys are not the most important things in the world—there is somebody

called God, who is satisfying in Himself."

You may not totally agree with Christie. You may think that she has gone overboard on some things. But she has been there and back.

Robert and Alice Fryling, in their book *A Handbook for Engaged Couples,* say, "As we have questioned couple after couple about their own experience, we have heard again and again: Wait. We have never met a couple who regretted waiting for intimate demonstrations of affections; but we have met many couples who regret having had too much physical intimacy before marriage."

This whole business of physical contact comes down to three main points to remember and consider.

1. Keep It All in Perspective

Dating is not like walking around in a furniture store and finding something you think looks nice and putting a "taken" tag on it. Dating is a time for growth, a time for you to develop yourself socially. Dating helps you to decide what qualities you would like or not like in a husband or wife. Concentrate on getting to know the individual on a personal level and not the physical.

2. Commitment Is Involved

Nothing comes without a price tag. A person who follows the desires of a sensual heart may not realize that his actions demand a commitment. Whether you realize it or not, when you give yourself over to heavy petting you are saying something about your level of commitment to the other person. Why not wait until after the commitment at the marriage altar to confirm it?

This could leave a problem. If you feel affection in your heart for a particular person, how can you express that feeling? A girl who is a junior in high school in Illinois put it very well when she said, "Treat a girl like a girl! I don't know how many boys will read this, but for those who do; please treat a girl like a girl. It means an awful lot to me to have any boy at any time think enough of me to treat me as a girl—for instance, open a door."

Really, when it comes down to it, which shows more love, doing something nice for her, or doing something guilt producing? If you really like a person there are thousands of better ways of letting it be known other than intimacy.

3. Form Your Convictions Now

It would be good to ask yourself why you want to date. Because everybody else is dating and you feel pressured to? Because you need, desire, and want security? For curiosity sake? Because you are scared you'll end up a bachelor or an old maid? Or because you want to grow and someday find God's choice for your life partner?

"Why decide now?" Now is the time to decide because you are better able to judge and consider all sides when you are outside a romantic situation. If you had to decide while being jolted by those surging love feelings, likely you would make a less than wise decision.

Set your own convictions.

Get them rooted deep in your heart and never violate them. Think with a rational mind, not a romantic heart. □

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Feb. 6—John 15:9-17

Feb. 7—John 16:26-28

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Feb. 9—John 21:15-19

Feb. 10—1 John 1:1-4

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Resource: "Looking for Love in All the Right Places," page 3
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WEEK 2:

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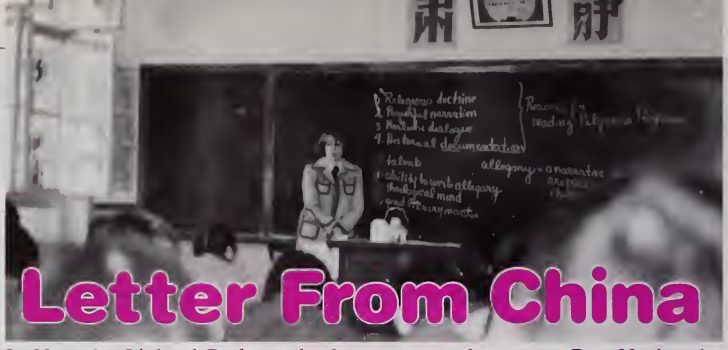
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Letter From China

In May, the *Lighted Pathway* lead story was a feature on Drs. Murl and Carolyn Dirksen. On leave of absence from their teaching positions at Lee College, they are now teaching English in Chengdu, Peoples Republic of China. Carolyn recently wrote this letter to Julie Beach, a Lee student.

Dear Julie,

Everything here is going great. Saturday we got our bicycles. I love mine. It's all shiny black. Sunday we went for a nice ride. It was so exciting with ox carts and hand-drawn carts and hundreds of other bicycles on the road. I enjoyed it very much.

When we bought the bikes, a huge crowd followed us and watched everything we did. I feel like Brooke Shields every time I go to town. Sunday, Murl and I were waiting on the street for some friends, and about 150 people gathered around to look at us. They are all very friendly, but they're quite curious about foreigners.

My classes are going well, and I really enjoy the students. I just collated and stapled a hundred copies of a sixteen-page handout. I don't have books for two of my classes, so I have been devising a lot of my own materials. However, I don't always use the books anyway.

You won't believe this! I took my textbook from Lee to class one day because I was using some of it. During the break, several students came up and asked if they could see it. They handled it very carefully and looked at the pages. They asked if my students in the United States had this book, and I said, "Yes." They were amazed that students could own such a beautiful and wonderful book. Some of them have asked to take it to their rooms to examine it more carefully. Textbooks are all paperbacks printed on newsprint. Next time you are kicking your old textbook around, wishing you'd never seen it, just remember there are people in China who would love to have such a book.

I know, you'll mail them yours!

I've been invited to serve as faculty advisor of the Foreign Languages Department broadcasting group. There are twenty English majors, chosen by the department, who have an English language broadcast twice a week. The students don't actually have radios and there isn't exactly a radio station. But they broadcast over a public address system that has speakers all over campus.

Broadcasts begin at 5:30 a.m. with a rousing (literally) rendition of the Chinese national anthem and twenty minutes of the Chinese equivalent of aerobics. You do the same routine every day. Unfortunately, there is no on/off switch on the loudspeaker. The English broadcast is at ten o'clock. I have had one short interview on the air and the students read something I wrote about my impressions of the university.

Write to me again when you can.

Love,
Carolyn

EDITORIAL



MARCUS V. HAND
Editor

LOVE.

That magic four-letter word "makes the world go 'round."

Love has a thousand meanings, each of them different.

You "love" your favorite singing group. You love the person you are going out with. You love your parents. Love describes almost any feeling of attachment or fondness.

You love pizza, your favorite clothes, listening to music. You love your pet. You love your country. You love your family. You love your church. Yet, the meaning is different in each instance.

A mother risks her life to save her baby from a burning building and we call it love. A Christian leaves the comforts of home and the nearness of relatives to serve as a missionary halfway around the world and we call it love. God sends His Son to redeem lost humanity and we certainly call that love.

Romantic love is a different matter still.

Poets pen pretty words and singers sing soulful songs in an unceasing litany to romantic love.

Lovers celebrate love each year on February 14. The day is called Valentine's Day. "Valentines" or greeting cards are sent to sweethearts, friends, family members, and secret admirers. Some cards are romantic; others have humorous pictures and sayings; most say, "Be my valentine."

Did you know that you are healthier when you are in love? At least that's what Susan Delany of the Menninger Foundation concluded after some extensive scientific investigation.

When you are in love, she says, "Levels of lactic acid in the blood drop, making (you) less tired. Endorphins, which produce a natural high or sense of well-being, increase."

And Dr. Michael R. Liebowitz writes in *The Chemistry of Love* that "romantic love involves several intense forms of brain arousal triggered by contact with, or thoughts about, some specific person."

Which is all a fancy way of saying that when you are in love, you are on a natural high.

What is love? How do you know when you are in love? What is the difference between immature "puppy love" and genuine love; infatuation and the real thing? How can you tell when the right person comes along?

These questions point up the reason your love life is so important. To you *and* to God.

True love begins with God.

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. Love is made complete . . . because in this world we are like him" (1 John 4:16, 17; *New International Version*). □



LOVE NOTES



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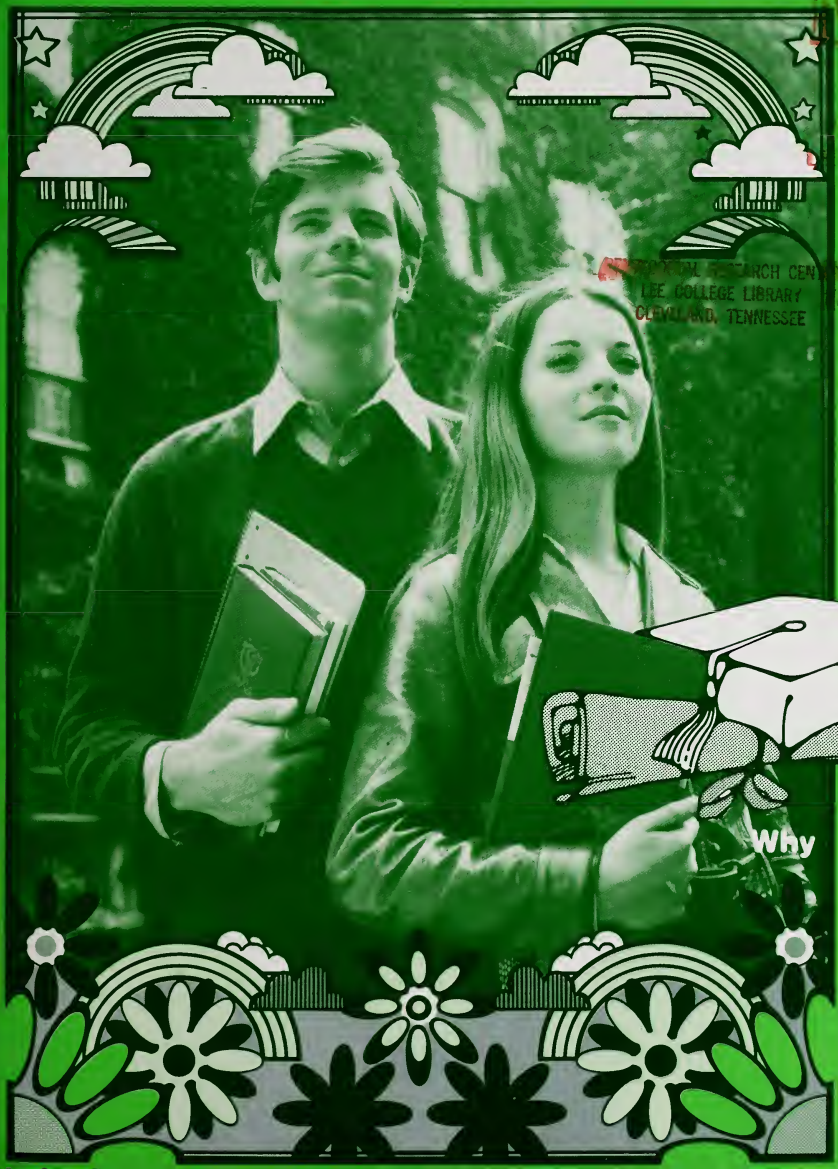
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Lighted Pathway

URCH OF GOD YOUTH PUBLICATION
MARCH 1985
VOLUME 56, NUMBER 3



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Why College?

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Erwing Galloway, De Wys Inc. Photo



"TO GO TO college or not to go to college?" This question is asked by millions of Americans every year—and how they answer affects them for the rest of their life.

Consider the following aspects of your life which are affected by your decision to go to college or not to go:

* the vocation you choose
* the standard of living you enjoy

by Paul E. Duncan

Why Go to COLLEGE?

Paul E. Duncan is dean of students at Lee College and author of *On Campus, A Christian Guide.* This article is adapted from that book. . . .

Why Go to COLLEGE?



* the values you live by
* the friends you have
* even the person you marry

THE CASE FOR COLLEGE

In other words, the very quality of your life is greatly determined by your decision about college. And, in spite of the recent appearance of a number of books and articles which argue against the value of college, the overwhelming evidence shows that a good education adds considerable depth and length to your life. Studies show that persons who go to college are more likely to develop a greater understanding of themselves and of other people.

College broadens your interest as well as your ability to appreciate. Research reveals that college-educated people are more likely to participate in the obligations and opportunities of the community. This means that they vote more often, take part in volunteer work, and are more likely to become directly involved in public affairs.

While the value of college should not be gauged entirely by dollars and cents, the benefits in this area are significant. A person who completes four years of college can expect to earn in excess of $200,000 more between the ages of 22 and 64 than the person who has only a high school diploma. College does not guarantee financial success, but the graduate can expect an 8 percent return on his investment.

There is a strong case for college. One of the benefits is that sense of dignity and integrity which comes from knowing who you are and what you can become. College offers the opportunity that few other endeavors can offer for developing a sense of comradeship with people of distant times and different pursuits.

IT MATTERS WHICH COLLEGE YOU CHOOSE!

Chances are if you are among the 3.7 million students graduating from high school this year, you will decide to go to college. You will join or have already joined the more than 2.3 million who are entering college for the first time this fall.

Which college will you attend? How do you go about deciding among the 3,000 or so colleges in this country? Does it really matter which college you choose? The answer to this last question is an emphatic *yes! It does matter which college you choose!*

Colleges are all different from each other in many ways and for many reasons. Each college has its own personality, fashioned primarily by its purpose and reason for being. Some are large, some are small, some personal, and some impersonal; some are found in urban areas, others in more suburban or rural areas. There are private colleges and public ones; you will find less expensive ones and very expensive ones; some are exclusive in their admission policies; others have a virtual open-door policy. Some are Christian in their perspective and lifestyle; most are nonsectarian with a "do-your-own-thing" philosophy.

Your choice of a college can make the difference between a time of growth and a time of wasted, aimless effort.

Deciding which college then is a most important decision. It is one you should give careful consideration.

First, ask yourself the questions: Why do I want to go to college? What do I expect out of college? (Your choice of a college should be one that gives you the best chance of achieving your purpose.) Of course, if you have no purpose or goal in going to college, any school will do. Someone has said, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there." Hopefully, you have a purpose and you have some idea of what you expect to receive.

The second consideration in deciding which college to attend logically follows the first. Which college can give you the best opportunity to achieve your purpose? To answer the question you need information about the various colleges available to you. For example, if you want to be an engineer, you need to know if the school you are considering offers a major in this field. If you are considering a career in social work, naturally you will want to know if courses in this field are offered at a particular college.

One extremely practical resource in learning a great deal about most of America's colleges and universities is *The College Handbook* published by the College Entrance Examination Board. This large single volume, located in most libraries or high school counselors' offices, provides information about curriculum, admission, student life, costs, available financial aid, and whom to see for additional information.

Of course, you will in all probability not be making your decision about college by yourself. Your parents, friends, teachers, ministers, and counselors will each offer assistance in your decision.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE?

In deciding which college is right for you, consider the advantages of attending a Christian college. In a society which is growing more complicated every day, and in a world suffering from a severe identity crisis, the Christian college fills a most important place. Much of the disenchantment with college today results from the inability or unwillingness of colleges to take a stand on moral and ethical issues. It is in this area that the Christian college has so much to offer.

The Christian college is much more likely to have a clear purpose for its existence; it is likely to have a *distinctive mission,* and know where it is headed.

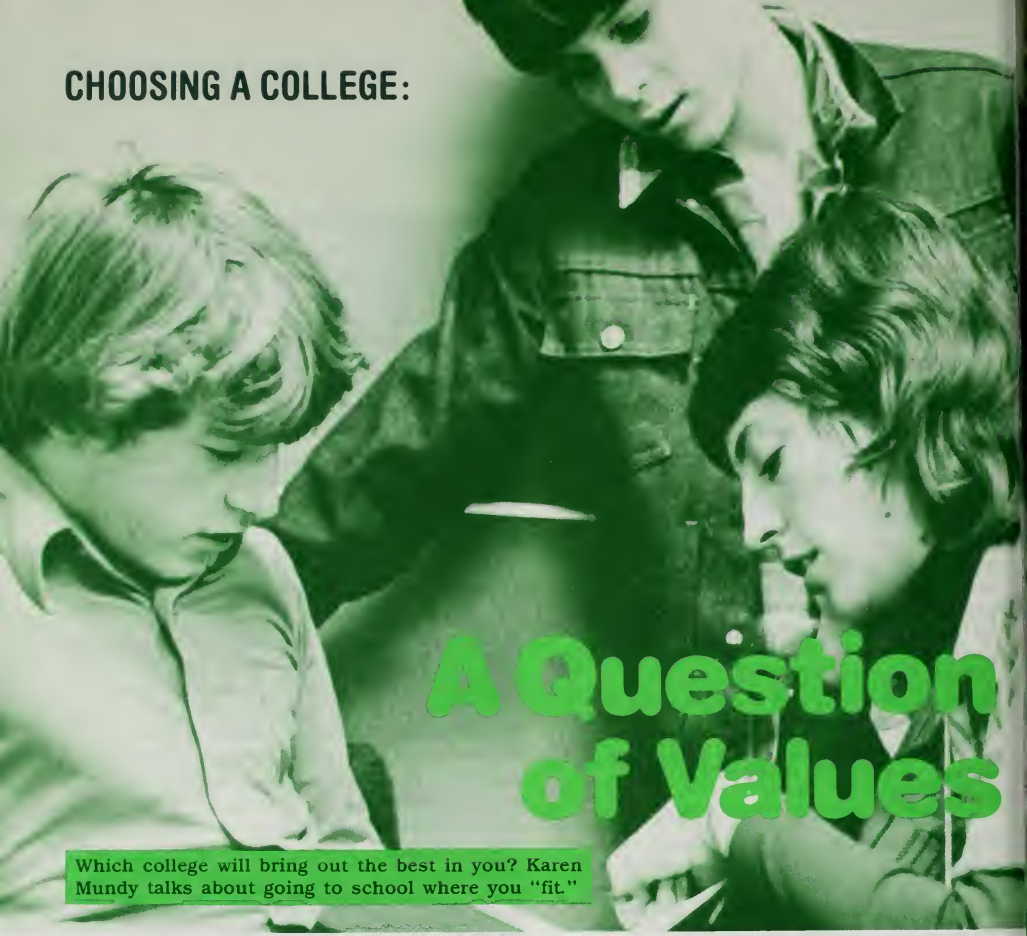
The Christian college, one that is truly founded upon and committed to the principles of *Scripture,* seeks to build lives, not just to prepare students for a career.

One of the distinct advantages of attending a Christian college is being a part of the close, personal community which develops among students, faculty, administration, and staff.

If the higher purposes of a college education are to help people understand the meaning of their lives and to become more sensitive to the meaning of other people's lives, then the Christian college has a lot going for itself.

Therefore, it has a lot going for you. □

CHOOSING A COLLEGE:



A Question of Values

Which college will bring out the best in you? Karen Mundy talks about going to school where you "fit."

by Karen Mundy, Instructor in Sociology at Lee College

CHOOSING A COLLEGE is ultimately a question of values. What is important to you?

Our culture offers a marketplace of values. Some coincide with Christian perspectives; others contradict these perspectives. We are advised to seek a certain style of life, preferably one with "gusto." Strive for white teeth and a clean house. We are encouraged to aspire to jobs which offer money, status, and glamour.

Yet, Christian values often collide with the assumptions marketed by our narcissistic society. Christian values of service, or good stewardship, or "calling" may not be affirmed in the values of our peer groups. Or even society.

The environments we choose to work, study, and play in reflect our values. Behavioral scientists talk of the "fit" between persons and environments. Sometimes we don't fit very well with certain environments. Have you ever felt uncomfortable or awkward in

a place? This may be an indicator of "lack of fit."

For the Christian young person, the question of environmental "fit" has special significance. What kind of environment maximizes your potential to be the best at whatever God wants you to be?

A social psychologist named Zimbardo created a simulated prison at Stanford University. He wanted to examine the impact of environment and social roles on behavior. As part of the experiment, he randomly assigned the role of prisoner or guard to students who agreed to participate. Zimbardo became the prison warden in the simulated prison environment.

During the experiment, Zimbardo recorded personality changes in the students and found that these changes corresponded to the roles they had been assigned. Indeed, the participants became so caught up in the prison environment and their roles that the experiment became reality to them.

Zimbardo realized this development only when his fiancee came to the prison to interview the student "prisoners." Zimbardo writes:

"While she was preparing the tape recorder and interview materials, I called her attention to the line of blindfolded prisoners, shuffling along under the guard's orders to the toilet. She averted her eyes and when I asked had she seen the prisoners (our 'circus'), she tearfully replied, 'It's awful what you are doing to those boys.' Hers was the first voice in nearly a week to break through the reality of the prison to remind us of what we were doing and that the experiment was out of control (Zimbardo, 1975:44)."

In Zimbardo's experiment, we see the environment altering behavior in a way that runs antithetical to Christian values. Other works also note the power of social situations to act as change agents in our lives. Charles Cooley, a sociologist at the turn of the century, considered the self a "reflected image" of past social experiences. The self was seen as a mirror of the expectations of others. According to Cooley, we are shaped by our friends or our "significant others."

(The thought of being a reflection of your friends may make you gasp, or writhe in terror.)

Although friends and situations can influence you to turn away from Christian values, they can also "call" out Christian values.

At this point the selection of a college becomes crucial to Christian young people. Which college will bring out the very best in you? Where can you go to find friendships that will reaffirm your values and commitments?

These are more than rhetorical questions. You will be shaped by your college experience just as you shape others. We are all in a process of "becoming." Find the college that helps you become what God wants you to be.

When you find that college, apply yourself as a "workman that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15). □

H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AWARENESS SUNDAY

"That They May Be One" (John 17:21)

March 10, 1985

To promote the international spirit of the Church of God, the General Department of Youth and Christian Education is sponsoring an International Youth Awareness Sunday. Youth groups in local churches around the world will get together to participate in activities that include:

* prayer for a revival to break out among young people around the world
* prayer that God may use youth for His glory
* involvement in personal evangelism
* presentation of special drama, singing, and preaching.

It is hoped that this Sunday will create a sense of unity among Church of God young people and an awareness of the great potential that exists when young people "get together" for the purpose of bringing glory to the kingdom of God.

The following suggestions will help you in the celebration of this day:

1. Set up a committee to make plans and arrangements.
2. Promote in the bulletin, the pulpit, and a poster.
3. Have a special guest for the day or ask the pastor to speak on the theme (John 17:21).
4. Prepare special music with an international flavor.
5. Plan a creative arrangement for the church. Place a big map of the world, or a globe, in a highly visible place in the church. Write names of different countries on small posters and place them around the church as prayer reminders. Give prominence to those countries with social and political problems such as Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Lebanon, and so forth.
6. Sponsor an international church fellowship dinner after the service.

How to VISIT A COLLEGE

Gary D. Matson, Ph.D., is assistant director of the American Association of Bible Colleges, the accrediting agency for Church of God Bible colleges.



H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

by Gary D. Matson

BEFORE YOU arrive, contact the admissions office. It can arrange for a campus tour; classroom visits; appointments with the registrar, financial-aid office, student dean, heads of academic departments; and a dormitory visit.

After all this formality, try to get a couple of students to eat lunch with you. If you have to buy their meal, it is worth it. If you can coax them to eat in the college's cafeteria, you can sample the food service's product at the same time.

Try to get a freshman and junior if possible. The junior should be majoring in the field you are considering. Ask loaded questions. You will be surprised how perfectly frank and honest students will be.

Questions should relate to such things as "Why did you choose this college?" "What is the strongest characteristic of this college?" "What is its greatest weakness?" "What was your favorite class?" (or instructor or activity). Then, ask which to avoid.

Ask where students go for help with a very serious matter. What happens on weekends on campus—how many students disappear? How difficult is it to get financial assistance? What Christian activities occur? Are they planned or spontaneous?

Where do most students go to church? How hard is it to get to a shopping area? Is there a planned activity calendar? Is there opportunity to get involved in Christian outreach programs? What do students think of the college's societies, clubs, athletic teams and student leaders?

As you consider their answers and all the other factors buffeting you, the most important thing you should return to is "Where does the Lord want me to be?" Getting His assurance is not as easy as following some simple checklist or being swayed by an admissions officer's sales pitch.

Seek His direction with a daily time in His Word and daily prayer about your decision. Be patient in waiting on His assurance. When you make the choice the Lord already knows is right, you will have His peace about it. □

"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed" (Psalm 20:4, New International Version*).*

KEN MAXWELL leaned his blonde head against the cool, dark frame of the door that closed behind him. Coach Young's words still echoed in his pounding brain.

"Are you getting plenty of rest? You seemed half asleep when you were practicing free throws this afternoon."

"Yes sir," replied Hilton High's star forward. He studied his long legs stretched out in front of him.

"Well, you know the curfew. In bed by ten the night before a game. But one thing I can't ignore." Coach shuffled through papers on his desk. "Your grades have plunged in the past few weeks. You're going to have to buckle down. I'm counting on you, Ken. Hilton has a good chance of winning the state this year if we can hang onto our starting five."

That is the problem, Ken thought, swallowing hard. Too many people counted on him. He could feel pressure building up inside. Can't the older generation understand that there's more to life than studying and youth meetings and basketball practice? That's why his friendship with Eddie Barnes was so important. With Eddie, he could get out and "let off steam."

Ken could still hear his Dad's warning, too. "Stay away from Eddie Barnes, son. He's trouble."

"You just don't like the way he dresses, or his long hair," Ken had argued back.

"Eddie's a dropout," Dad had said. "And not merely a dropout from school. I know he's had a bad homelife but lots of people have. Eddie escapes from reality with liquor. Rumor has it he's into drugs, too."



H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

Focusing the Picture

by Joyce Nelms

Basketball . . . grades . . . a friend who is experimenting with drugs. So many pressures, and people, keep Ken from remembering he is a Christian. He almost loses everything before an unexpected experience brings him back to reality . . . and to Christ!

Sure, Ken had seen the bottle in the brown paper bag. But that didn't mean he had to drink just to be Eddie's buddy. He just wanted to feel free and have some fun.

Ken arose from the chair and forced a smile. "Sure thing, Mr. Young. I'll crack those books, starting tonight."

The knob was turning in his hand when Coach Young's voice made him whirl around. The steel blue eyes were penetrating. "Stay clean, Ken. Don't blow your chance for a scholarship at State U."

Suddenly, the last bell rang and Ken turned to face a corridor full of hurrying, laughing students. He recognized Wayne Tolin, president of the youth group, walking toward him, smiling. His stomach tightened, sure the redhead was going to lecture him about "neglecting his spiritual life."

"We're having a special meeting tonight, a speaker from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes," Wayne informed him. "Can I count on your being there?"

"Sorry, Wayne, but I've got to crack the books tonight," Ken replied. "I just got a lecture from Coach about getting my grades up."

Ken walked away quickly, leaving Wayne poised for further conversation. *I've got to get some air,* he said to himself. He was almost running as he broke through the door and felt the warm February sun on his face.

BEEP-BEEP.

Ken glanced toward the curb. He grinned widely when he saw Eddie's old red jalopy. He ran toward it eagerly.

"Hey, Eddie. What's up?"

"Hop in, man. We're going to drive around and look for some action," Eddie declared with a wink.

Ken hesitated for a moment with his hand on the door. He glanced over his shoulder to see if anyone was looking. Mom and Dad were out of town on a business trip and he was on his own. There was no one to ask where he was going or where he had been. Tossing his books in the back seat, he slid into the front beside Eddie. Ken felt light and free as the car roared down the street. Tires squealed as they turned the corner. The radio was blaring loud, fast music; the boys were laughing.

Eddie headed the car into the parking lot of Plaza Shopping Center. "I have to meet someone here. I'll only be a minute," Eddie explained, looking at his watch.

Ken noticed a sleek black sports car pulling in. A man wearing sun glasses slid out from behind the wheel. Eddie glanced over his shoulder, then headed toward the car. A quick exchange of money and small brown package took place. Seconds later Eddie was back in the car, touching a match to a cigarette.

The peculiar, sweet smell let Ken know immediately that this was no ordinary cigarette. He felt his muscles tense. Eddie sensed it too and held one cigarette out to him.

"Don't be so uptight, Ken, old boy," he grinned, his eye lids drooping. "Take a drag. Nothing will relax you like a little grass."

Ken shook his head. "No thanks, Eddie. I'd better not."

"Come on," Eddie coaxed. "Are you held together with skin or chicken feathers?"

Ken's heart pounded as he searched his mind for a decision. He didn't want Eddie to think he was chicken. Besides, one small puff couldn't hurt anything, he reasoned. He could sure use something to unwind the yo-yo in his stomach.

Ken's hand trembled as he reached for the cigarette. Then a car door slammed and he looked up to see a familiar figure walking toward the supermarket.

"Oh, no! It's Coach Young. I wonder if he saw me? Come on, Eddie. Let's get out of here—quick!"

Eddie's eyes blazed with anger as he gunned the car into motion. "OK, Little Boy, I guess I'd better take you back to your chicken coop."

Next day, Ken moved through the halls like a sleepwalker, not seeing anyone or hearing a word the teachers were saying. He didn't even hear his name being called until a hand touched his shoulder. He turned and found himself face-to-face with Coach Young.

"Would you step into my office for a minute?"

Ken could only nod. He tried to ignore the sick feeling in the pit of his stomach. This was the moment he had dreaded all day.

But, to his surprise the coach said, "Do you know Tip Sanders?"

Relief flooded through Ken's body. "Sure. I read his column in the paper every day. He's a super sportswriter."

"He wants to write a piece about our basketball team, and I promised to send him some background material," the coach grinned. "I guess I forgot newspapers have deadlines." He picked up a big brown envelope from the desk. "Tip lives a few blocks from here and I wondered if you'd mind delivering this to him on your way home."

"Sure thing," Ken said. "It will be a pleasure to meet him." He smiled and picked up the envelope. At the door Ken turned around. "Sanders? Haven't I read that name in our trophy case?" he asked.

Coach Young nodded. "One and the same. He was on the squad the last time Hilton High went to the state finals. Everyone felt sure he would turn pro until—" the coach stopped and walked to the window. "Hurry along, Ken. I told Tip to expect you."

Ken took giant strides as he pushed his way through the outside door. He had to admit he was relieved when he didn't see Eddie's car parked at the curb. He had thought the roof was going to fall in on him, but now, all he had to do was deliver an envelope.

Minutes later, Ken arrived at the Sanders' home on Willow Street. He leaped the steps and rang the bell. When the door opened, Ken stared. "C-Coach Young sent me," he finally blurted out.

"Don't be embarrassed," the dark young man smiled up at him. "I can see you didn't expect to meet a sportswriter in a wheelchair. Won't you come inside?"

Ken stepped into a warm, cheerful room. A fire glowed from the fireplace. Opposite it book-laden shelves backed a desk with papers surrounding a typewriter.

Tip maneuvered his chair to the desk and smoothly opened the envelope. "I've been reading about you, Ken. I kind of see a reflection of myself in you," he smiled softly. "Me, that is, before the car crash."

"Drunk driver?" Ken really didn't know how the question tumbled out.

"Yeah, it was a drunk driver all right," Tip nodded. The smile faded. "But the drunk was driving the car in which I was a passenger."

It was strangely quiet in the room for long moments. The crackle of the flames feebly punctuated the silence.

"Oh, I didn't drink myself," Tip went on, rubbing his fingers along the envelope. "It was the boys I chose as friends. They seemed to lead such a fun, carefree life and since I didn't actually drink with them, I didn't see what harm could be done. Then one day I woke up in a hospital, my spinal chord broken. From the bed I graduated to this wheelchair. Now, instead of playing sports, I write about them."

Tip seemed to catch himself. "Sorry, Ken, I didn't mean to depress you. I usually have a snack about this time every afternoon. Will you join me?"

Suddenly, Ken's head was spinning and he was fighting to hold back tears. Had Coach Young sent him here to meet Tip Sanders to stop his headlong plunge into something that might ruin his life forever? He could never be sure, but right now he needed the quietness of his own room to sort things out.

"Thanks, but another time perhaps," Ken replied, hurrying to the door. "Nice to meet you, Tip, and I'll come back real soon. That's a promise."

As soon as he could, Ken stopped and leaned against a tree. Cold wind whipped at his hair. The feeling of pressure was washing away in giant sobs that shook his broad shoulders. Suddenly Ken knew that he had created his own pressures by rebelling against what he knew was right.

"Thank You, Lord, for stopping me before it was too late," he whispered. "Maybe it isn't too late for Eddie, either." He wiped his eyes with the back of his hands.

Ken could hardly wait to see the look on Eddie's face when he said, "Let me tell you about Jesus." □

Lee College Presents

College Day

April 19-20, 1985

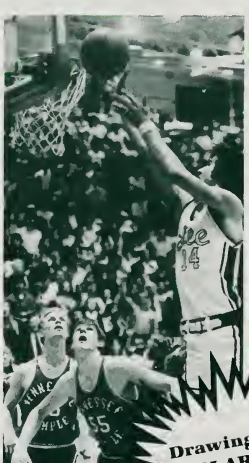
For Prospective Students



Meet "BLAIR" From T.V.'s "Facts of Life"



With Special Guest Lisa Whelchel
Christian Actress & Recording Artist



Drawing for SCHOLARSHIPS



College Day Schedule

Friday, April 19,1985

3:00-8:00 p.m. Registration
8:00 p.m. Pizza Parties (Loc tions by State
10:00-12:00 Concert with Li
Midnight Whelchel

Auditions for Music Scholarships ma be scheduled by contacting the Chai man of the Music Department

Saturday, April 20, 1985

9:00 a.m. Academic Advising an Campus Tours
11:00 a.m. General Sessio (Conn Center)
12:00 noon Special Lu cheon for High Scho Seniors
2:00 p.m. "Life at Lee" (Fu for Everyone!)
3:00 p.m. "The Great Softball Game!! (High School All-Stars vs. Le College All-Stars
4:00 p.m. "The Great Basketball Sho Out!!" (Lee Faculty vs. Sta Youth Directors)
5:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Rally (with President Lam Vest and THE LEE SINGER

Come Look Us Over

*For motel accommodations phone (615) 472-2111

"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

Choosing the Right College:

Helping Growing Disciples Make Practical Choices

WHICH COLLEGE is right for you? Many factors go into arriving at the answer to this question. You must begin, however, by deciding what kind of college you want to attend.

A **junior college** or **community college** is usually within commuting distance of anyone living in any city in America. A junior college's two-year program can help a student with less-than-adequate high school training prepare academically for a four-year school. Originally designed as a two-year school, some community colleges now offer a four-year program. They teach a wide variety of courses such as child development, bread-making, assertiveness training, and even some computer programming.

A **vocational-technical** institute is where you go to receive training as an automobile mechanic, electronics technician, cosmotologist, or welder. You can become a licensed practical nurse at vo-tech schools. They concentrate on the trades.

A **college,** to most people, means a four-year institution. Graduation from an accredited college usually culminates in a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. There are liberal arts colleges, Bible colleges, teacher's colleges, and a host of others.

A **university** is a school that has several colleges and a graduate school program. For instance, a university may have a law school, a business college, a teacher's college, and offer master's degrees in several areas.

A **Bible institute** provides practical study in the Bible and theology for those who do not have the time or opportunity to acquire this training elsewhere. A sort of "vo-tech for ministers," some do not require a high school diploma for entrance.

The four most important factors which influence your choice of colleges are:

—your parents
—money and the availability of scholarships and grants
—your past academic record
—your goals in life

After you decide what kind of college is right for you, you can select the school you want to attend. On the next two pages you will find information on Church of God colleges, plus sources for funding your education. All of these are excellent schools where you can prepare yourself for your future.

As you prepare to take this important step in your life, the **Lighted Pathway** staff prays with you and for you that the Holy Spirit will guide you.

CHURCH OF GOD COLLEGES

NAME AND ADDRESS	KIND	MAJORS	DEGREES	ENTRANCE EXAM	ENROLLMENT	STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO	ACCREDITATION	TU
East Coast Bible College 6900 Wilkinson Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28214 (704) 394-2307	Bible College	Bible, Christian Education, Church Music, Church Music/Christian Education, Elementary Education, Music Education, Pastoral Ministries, Pre-Seminary, General Studies	AA, AS, BA, BS	ACT	F-103 M-223	20:1	American Association of Bible Colleges (AABC)	$57 per semeste hour
International Bible College 567 Trinity Lane Moose Jaw, Sask., Canada (306) 692-4041	Bible College	Bible, Christian Education, Theology	3 year diploma	Grade 12 equivalency	F-12 M-18	5:1		Full-tim $27 per semeste hour Part-tim $39 per semeste hour
Lee College Ocoee Street Cleveland, TN 37311 (615) 472-2111	4-yr. liberal arts college	History, Psychology, Sociology, Social Science, Biblical Education, Christian Education, Cross-Cultural Ministries, Business, Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Health and Physical Education, Communications, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Medical Technology, Music Education, Music, Biological Science, Mathematics, Natural Science, Biblical Studies	BA, BS, BME	ACT, SAT	F-553 M-529	12:1	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)	$100 p semeste hour
Northwest Bible College 1900 8th Avenue, S.E. Minot, ND 58701 (701) 852-3781	Bible College	Sacred Music, Bible, Elementary Education, Christian Ministry, Christian Education	AA, BA, BS	ACT	F-90 M-61	12:1	American Association of Bible Colleges (AABC)	$71.50 per semeste hour
West Coast Christian College 6901 North Maple Avenue Fresno, CA 93710 (209) 299-7201	Bible College Arts and Sciences	General Studies, Biblical Education, Music, Business Secretarial, Christian Education, Christian Ministries-Greek Emphasis, Christian Ministries-Pastoral Emphasis, Elementary Christian Education, Missions and Cross-Cultural	AA, BA	ACT	F-66 M-160	15:1	American Association of Bible Colleges (AABC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)	$85 per semeste hour
Church of God School of Theology P.O. Box 3330 Cleveland, TN 37311 (615) 478-1131	Graduate Seminary	Pastoral Ministries, Missions, Christian Education, Teaching	M.Div. M.A.	Bachelor's Degree from an accredited school	251		Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)	$60 per semeste hour

FINANCING YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION

AT LEAST THREE ways exist for you to pay for your college education. You can pay for it from your or your parents' bank account, or you can finance it with a grant or loan, or you can work for your college tuition. Most students use a combination of the three.

A grant or scholarship is free money that does not have to be repaid. A loan must be repaid with interest.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

SEOG is the designation for Supplemental Education Opportunities Grant. It's a cash gift to defray educational expenses and does not have to be repaid. You have to demonstrate need in order to qualify for SEOG. Apply early, however. When the money alloted to your college is gone, no more is available until next year.

Pell is the designation for the Pell Grant Program. Pell makes money available for needy students. "Need" is determined by the amount of money you and your family have and by the amount of money you will need to go to the college of your choice. Pell money does not have to be repaid, but you do have to qualify. Students with the greater need qualify first.

Scholarships and private grants. All schools usually have a limited number of scholarships and grants available. Private industry (for instance, your parents' employer) also awards scholarships and grants. Each grant or scholarship may have different qualifications and requirements. Contact your college financial aid officer for information.

STUDENT LOANS

NDSL is the National Direct Student Loan Program. A federal loan arranged and administered by the school goes directly to the student. The interest rate is only 5 percent. You don't have to begin repaying the loan until six months after you leave school, whether you graduate or drop out.

GSL is a Guaranteed Student Loan. A GSL is made through your local bank, savings and loan association, or credit union. The government guarantees your loan. Pick up an application at your lending institution, not at the college. The interest rate is 8 percent and you don't have to begin repaying until six months after you leave school.

PLUS is Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students. You don't have to prove financial need to qualify for a PLUS loan. It is made by your bank, savings and loan association, or credit union. The interest rate is 12 percent and you or your parents have to begin repayment 60 days after you receive the loan (while you are still in school).

CWS is College Work-Study. It is, in reality, neither a grant nor a loan. Rather, it is a federal financial aid program that pays money toward your school bill while you work for the college. You won't get a glamorous, fast-paced job—it will probably be something anyone can do. Still, it permits you to help work your way through college. At many colleges all student jobs come under the CWS.

GETTING STARTED

Getting financial aid may not be quite as simple as it seems here. There are forms to fill out, deadlines to meet, letters to write, and statements to prepare. You can go to the college of your choice, however, regardless of your financial status, if you persist.

Two forms are necessary to help you get started in the right direction. They are the Financial Aid Form, which may be tailored by each school; and the Student Aid Report, or SAR. Forms are available from your high school guidance counselor or from the college you wish to attend.

Two pamphlets are invaluable in assisting you in locating funds for college. They are

Student Guide: Five Federal Financial Aid Programs
U.S. Department of Education
P.O. Box 84
Washington, DC 20044

The American Legion
National Emblem Sales
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(Please enclose $1.00)

Two persons who will help you find financing for your college education are your high school guidance counselor and the financial aid officer at the college you wish to attend.

Proposals to modify or eliminate some of these educational assistance programs are before Congress as this issue goes to press.

THE CATEGORY IS SHOES . . .

Find the answer and be prepared to explain the setting or context of these meaningful trivia questions.

1. In the Old Testament, what did it mean when a man gave his neighbor a shoe? (Ruth 4:7)

2. Who wore the same shoes for 40 years? (Deuteronomy 29:5)

3. Who sold a poor man for a pair of shoes? (Amos 2:6)

4. What group of people was told to eat with their shoes on? (Exodus 12:11)

5. Who tricked Joshua with some old, patched shoes? (Joshua 9:5)

6. Who were the four men who gave shoes to prisoners of war? (2 Chronicles 28:12-15)

7. At which nation did God say He would throw a shoe? (Psalm 108:9)

8. Who wore badger-skin shoes (LB says "dolphin hide")? (Ezekiel 16:10)

9. Whom did Jesus tell to wear shoes but not an extra coat? (Mark 6:9)

10. Which New Testament character was given a ring, a robe, and a pair of shoes? (Luke 15:22)

11. Who told Peter to put on his shoes? (Acts 12:8)

12. Who didn't want to untie Jesus' shoes? (Acts 13:25)

Louisiana's Youth Say Yes to Missions

by T. Ron Wood

YWEA and STEP benefits from a program in Louisiana called FAST. The Reverend T. Ron Wood, state director, tells about it. . . .



INVOLVEMENT IS THE key to success for any youth-oriented ministry. Energetic youth demand attractive, challenging, and action opportunities that satisfy inquisitive natures.

With this in mind, Louisiana's Department of Youth and Christian Education sought to develop a fresh approach to involve young persons in a mission ministry for the 1984 YWEA program. The goals were missions education, missions awareness, and missions involvement. First, a program of missions education and awareness was begun.

Knowing that a missionary training center is to be built in Las Mangas, Honduras, through YWEA; knowing that personnel from this center will be trained to minister to the spiritual needs of Latin Americans and to assist in the relief of personal and domestic needs such as hunger and health; knowing that personal needs more often generate compassionate and generous giving; and knowing that three native sons of Louisiana, the Reverend Messrs. Jack Dyer, Richard Waldrop, and Charles Lambert, are serving as missionaries for the Church of God in Honduras, we began to plan. The educational program of our mission training would acquaint youth with the spiritual, physical and cultural needs of the peoples of Honduras.

From this planning came the idea for FAST (Fast Action for Starving Thousands). We would raise funds by fasting to help feed the spiritually and physically starving people of Honduras.

FAST was held in five regional locations. An overnight lock-in brought our youth together. The lock-in began at midnight Friday and closed at noon on Saturday. Preparation started 30 days before the event with our youth soliciting sponsors to contribute cash amounts for every meal fasted during the FAST period. The lock-in involved fasting, education sessions on world hunger, worship, fun times, and sleeping on the floor, just as millions around the world do each evening. A sumptuous breakfast awaited each young person on Saturday morning at daybreak—it consisted of two crackers and a cup of water!

An awareness of world hunger became a reality to each that morning.

Though worn out from such intense involvement, these young people were transformed and set afire with the desire to become more active in missions ministry. Most could hardly wait until Sunday morning when an opportunity was made

available for them to share with their friends and families during the morning worship service at their local churches.

Youth throughout the state shared with others the sincere satisfaction they felt when they sacrificed for others. During this time of worship 1,750 homes were moved and challenged by the Spirit to continue a fast for three meals a week for the period of eight weeks. The cost of each meal fasted would be donated to YWEA 1984.

YES TO MISSIONS SERVICE

But this was not the end! Promises had been made and obligations established. Incentives played a big part in FAST. Now the results of those incentives became a part of the first Louisiana STEP mission. Youth who raised $1000 for YWEA through the FAST program were promised a trip to the mission field. But where could we go? You guessed it, HONDURAS HERE WE COME!

Youth camps closed at noon on Friday. Saturday was spent arranging and packing clothes for a Sunday boarding at New Orleans International Airport. After long hours of planning and anxious anticipation, we were soon over the blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico. With family and friends behind, the unknown lay ahead.

What will Honduras be like? What about the people? the churches? What if I am called on to minister? What about the war and our safety? What about the food? What about the water?

With military aircraft, gunships, M-16s, and armed soldiers clearly visible all around us, we went through the customs lines asking ourselves, "What are we doing here?"

We found the answer to that question at 7:30 p.m. It was worship time and we found ourselves in the middle of some of the most beautiful Christian people in the world. We finally knew WHY. We found a kindred spirit, a warm welcome, and we simply felt right in the middle of God's will.

Language was a constant barrier, yet our youth communicated the reasons for our visit. Strolling through the marketplaces, sharing a few *centavos* with a crippled beggar, singing to the rhythm of Spanish guitars and tambourines, and praying at crudely fashioned altars, they witnessed. Walking the sand-blown beaches, swimming in the rushing flow of a mountain river, preaching with an













interpreter, telling Bible stories to 60 children in a mountain village, sitting in crowded church services, passing out tracts in lonely doorways, meditating in quiet solitude, singing and witnessing to the black Caribe tribes nestled along the blue-green waters of the Caribbean, they clearly knew why they were there.

We worked. Digging ditches, painting a roof, building a porch, placing siding on a house, laying water lines, and washing dishes—we knew we were not on vacation. Whether sleeping in a comfortable bed or wrapped in a sleeping bag surrounded by the cool darkness of a tropical rain forest, our youth knew that Christ was our reason for being there.

The results were simply fantastic. The report shows that

—450 young people participated;
—1,750 families throughout Louisiana fasted three times a week for eight weeks;
—$32,846.92 was raised for YWEA;
—17 young people went on the Louisiana STEP team.

God himself knows, thankfully, the final results!

Here are testimonies from some who went with us.

"Going to Honduras brought a new understanding of world missions to me. Actually taking part in the building of a small dam made of stones and laying a water line to bring water to the missionaries was great.

"The opportunity to worship with Hondurans in churches and street services is a very good memory. The sincerity of these people made an impression on me that I will not forget."

—Terry L. Taylor

"After seeing for myself, I will ever be reminded of just how good God has been to me."

—Ron Erickson

"To me, the fast was a way of learning. It taught me discipline, and made me realize just how fortunate I am. It gave me a burden for hungry people."

—Jennifer Waldrop

"I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Honduras. It was a very educational and humbling experience."

—Melissa □

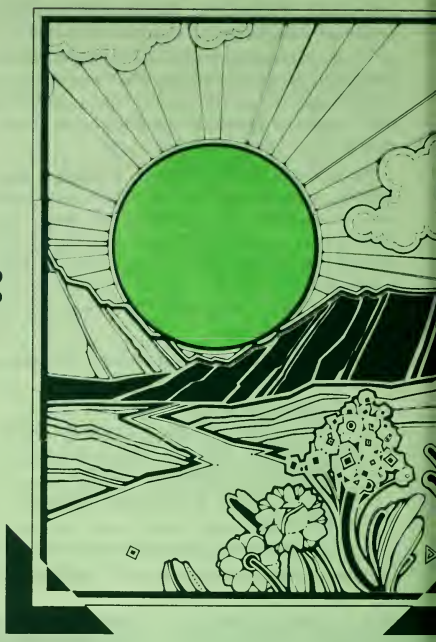









God's most powerful signs often arrive in the most frail packages.



A Bouquet of Flowers

by Pastor Mikhail Khorev

What follows is an incident from the life of Mikhail Khorev, a prominent Soviet pastor. Khorev's story was translated from Russian by Valerie Pavlova, who visited his home just before his most recent arrest.

* * *

I will never forget the day I received my first prison sentence for serving Jesus Christ.

The courtroom was filled with people, including many friends who gave their farewell blessings as I was led away: "Be strong and of good courage!"

Those were tremendous words which gave me great hope. But I did not realize what else God had planned for me before the close of that day to give me the courage I needed to survive in a brutal Soviet prison.

When my assigned prison van finally pulled up to the courthouse, many prisoners were already crowded inside. I was getting ready to climb aboard when some friends shouted final words of encouragement at me and threw flowers in my direction.

The guards ordered me to hold my hands behind my back so I could not reach the flowers.

Before the guards finally slammed shut the van's heavy steel door, someone threw me a bouquet of flowers, but the blossoms scattered over the floor and were quickly grabbed by the other prisoners.

Every prisoner had at least one flower, except me. All I could find was the string that had once held the bouquet together.

A mixture of nervousness, loneliness, and fear overwhelmed the van with noise. Everyone was vigorously giving their impressions of their trials; however, no one thought to ask who was to receive the bouquet.

OBSCENITIES FILL PRISON VAN

In no more than fifteen minutes we arrived at another courthouse, where a young woman, about 25, was put

aboard and locked in a separate compartment. Most of the men, reacting like savages, shouted raw, obscene remarks at her. The woman, who proved anything but shy, quickly returned her own unique verbal abuses.

Suddenly someone suggested, "Let's give our lady friend the flowers!" The men quickly collected the flowers and reassembled the bouquet for the guard to deliver to the woman.

She was surprised. "How did you men get such beautiful flowers?" she asked.

"We don't know. They were thrown at someone."

"Whose flowers are these?" she proceeded to ask each man in succession.

When she came to me, I had to reply "They are mine."

"And why were they not in your possession?"

"My friends threw them at me, but I didn't get them."

"Why were you tried? No one gets flowers at a trial!"

"My trial was apparently an exception."

"But why were you tried?" she demanded of me.

I had to confess. "For serving the Lord. I am a Christian."

This woman with the strong tongue then asked many questions about the Bible before she finally discovered I had been a pastor.

She then made a simple request: "Give me your word that you will pray for me today. I am a human being also and in great need of the salvation I have heard about.

"I was raised in an orphanage and have only now heard about God. I too want eternal life. Tell me, is it true that God forgives all sins?"

Some of the other prisoners started laughing at her concerns about eternity, questions which were totally foreign to her earlier obscene outbursts.

"Don't pay any attention to their jeers," she assured me. "I laughed also when I didn't know any better."

Suddenly, as if remembering why I was being sent to jail, she said, "Why is there such injustice? Why did I get the flowers? They really belong to you." She called the guard and begged him to give me the flowers.

Her plea was so persuasive that he finally handed me the flowers, which by then hardly resembled the fresh bouquet from earlier that day. I accepted the flowers and carefully reassembled the bouquet with the string I had salvaged.

The woman had another request. "Please give me your blessing."

"May Jesus Christ, who saves in all circumstances, be always with you" was my earnest reply.

A FEARFUL PRISON ENTRY

Finally, the time came to leave the van and enter what would be my home for several years. A guard opened the gate as I finally entered Moscow's dreaded Lefortovo Prison . . . all the time holding my bouquet of bruised, limp flowers that had long lost their earthly beauty.

The guard stopped me. "What is the meaning of this, coming to prison holding flowers?"

"My friends gave them to me," I answered meekly, feeling foolish.

"You can't bring them here. Throw them away this instant!"

So I carefully placed them gently on the edge of a large trash bin, as though that container was a fine crystal vase.

After my release years later, I revisited those prison gates and stood silently—feeling deep emotion and gratitude—at the spot where that trash bin had once stood.

Long since turned into dust, those flowers had been used by God to encourage me in my darkest hour.

I never again saw the woman who sought my prayers and blessings. But I know that, by God's grace, her good deed will bring forth abundant fruit.

Perhaps we will meet again in God's kingdom in the future. ☐

—from *Samizdat Review*, Door of Hope, Box 10460, Glendale, CA 91209

A CALL FOR COMMITMENT

Continued from page 23

Youth today must be reminded of 1 John 4:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." They must be taught Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Extra effort and more commitment brings greater strength to your youth ministry. ☐

Thomas L. Ballard, *Youth Pastor at West Minot, North Dakota*

Youth Leaders Meet in Indonesia



Dr. Ho L. Senduk, overseer, opens the meeting; Right, the banner behind the 66 youth leaders says, "Called to Become A Leader in the . . . Body of Christ"; Bottom left, the Reverend George Tapiheru, is director of youth and Christian education in Indonesia.

THE DEPARTMENT OF Youth and Christian Education of the Bethel Church of God in Indonesia, under the direction of the Reverend George Tapiheru, recently conducted a National Leadership Seminar at a Christian retreat center in Ciawi-Bogor, West Java.

The theme of the seminar was "Called to Become a Leader in the Structure of the Body of Christ" (Dipanggil untuk menjadi pemimpin dalam tatanan Tubuh Kristus).

The purpose of this seminar was:

1. To stimulate effective Christian leaders in rural parts of Indonesia.

2. To increase understanding in how to work within the organization.

3. To understand the program of the youth and Christian education department in more detail.

Sixty-six participants from ten provinces of Indonesia attended the seminar. They were greatly inspired. The youth and Christian education leader of East Java returned immediately to his province, called his youth leaders together and passed on to them all the materials and information he had received at the seminar.

The schedule for the meeting had seven sessions on Christian leadership and organization; six sessions on youth ministries; and six sessions on children's ministries. The seminar was officially opened by Dr. H. L. Senduk, overseer. □

A HOUSE CHURCH LEADER'S STORY

IN CENTRAL CHINA a believer was arrested in late 1983 under an accusation of being "anti-revolutionary." He was charged with belonging to the "Shouters" group (Witness Li), a group labeled anti-revolutionary. All persons who refuse to join the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) are regarded as "Shouters" by Public Security.

The believer, who was a leader of a house church but not of the "Shouters" group, was forced to join a "study group." This is the lowest level of detention in China, a kind of group examination to see whether charges can be laid.

When arrested, his house was searched, but there was nothing there that could be construed as "anti-revolutionary." He was beaten several times in the prison. The prisoners in the study class were required to provide Y15 and 30 catties (about 22 pounds) of rice per month for their support. He said that the only food he received was a bowl of watery rice gruel. The questioning was aimed at getting prisoners to admit faults and reveal information about others. He was kept there 24 days.

On his release he was instructed:

1. Not to join the Shouters
2. Not to hold (Christian) meetings
3. Not to engage in evangelistic activities, and
4. Not to read books from outside China.

He was also told that he must join the TSPM, but he refused.

Due to increased pressure, the form of independent meetings has changed. Four years ago the church experienced a great revival, as a response to increased freedom. The churches could even use PA systems to amplify evangelistic meetings! Now the meetings once more have to be small, with no regular time and place of meeting, being careful not to let the TSPM or the government know about the meetings. He estimates that there are at least two hundred Christians in prison in his own province at the moment. The increase in pressure has caused some Christians to capitulate, at least outwardly, but there are many people still willing to suffer for our Lord.

Pray for this Christian brother and all those like him. Pray for those still in detention, suffering beatings and interrogation. Praise God for His support of these small clusters of Christians. □

LEE COLLEGE OFFERS COMPUTER MAJOR

THE COMPUTER revolution has arrived on the Lee College campus, President Lamar Vest recently announced.

Lee College Board of Directors has approved a major in Computer Information Systems. The CIS degree follows a model curricula formulated by a team of industry and academic experts in the field of information processing and computer science.

Surveys report that CIS programs now exist in the majority of collegiate schools of business, and this percentage will increase by 33 percent over the next three years.

The Department of Labor predicts that the number of jobs for programmers will grow by 50 percent during the 80s. The number of jobs for computer analysts is expected to grow by 68 percent.

Evaline Echols, chairperson of the Business Department at Lee, states: "This major is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level application programmer and system analyst positions. The CIS degree is designed to bridge the gap between technically oriented computer science degrees which emphasize hardware and engineering and the demand by business for programmers and analysts with knowledge of business and the information requirements of business. While most computer science degrees prepare programmers for only programming, the CIS degree allows graduates access to both programmer and analyst positions."

The board also approved a minor in CIS, which will allow students from other departments to take advantage of this program. □

A CALL FOR COMMITMENT



A TEEN SLAUGHTERS his family for no apparent reason. Facing a life sentence, he hangs himself from his cell door. He ends his life, the one he thought had no meaning to anyone.

Youth today face many decisions. They live in a world that demands they grow up faster than ever before.

Is the church keeping up with the youth in today's world? Are we showing that we are committed to them from childhood to adulthood? Are we reaching out to the young person who believes life has no meaning? Are we developing our young people to be responsible citizens and active Christians so that they can become active witnesses for Jesus Christ?

As church leaders, we must look at the total young person. We must begin to assess the problems they face every day. We must guide them. They must be able to look to the church in times of anger, fear, and depression, and not to the world's illusions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



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March 5—Philippians 4:11-13
March 6—Philippians 4:19
March 7—1 Chronicles 17:16-20
March 8—Ecclesiastes 3:13, 14
March 9—Psalm 37:37
March 10—Joshua 3:5
March 11—Matthew 6:28-34
March 12—Joshua 7:13
March 13—Matthew 24:42-44
March 14—Ecclesiastes 3:16-22
March 15—Jeremiah 29:11-13
March 16—Proverbs 27:1, 2
March 17—Ecclesiastes 8:6-13
March 18—Romans 8:31-39
March 19—Ecclesiastes 9:11, 12
March 20—1 Corinthians 3:18-23
March 21—Luke 12:27-32
March 22—James 4:13-17
March 23—Micah 6:6-8
March 24—Romans 8:9-11
March 25—Romans 3:4
March 26—Romans 6:16-23
March 27—John 8:31, 32
March 28—Colossians 3:1-4
March 29—1 John 2:15-17
March 30—1 John 4:3-11
March 31—Luke 17:20, 21

Youth Leaders Only

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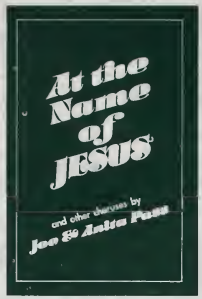
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No Peace in Paradise

by Sherry B. Lee

EXCITEMENT BUBBLES burst inside me as we entered the Magic Kingdom of Disney World. Every imaginable form of fun and frolic lay within the borders of this adventurous fantasy land. Everyone here, I thought, will be happy and laughing.

Much later, I chose a seat along the busy street to rest. Devouring my ice-cold orange slush, I studied the faces of individuals scurrying past to get from one attraction to another. Countenances ranged from blank and staring to aggressive and angry. Some were rebellious and cocky, others devious and challenging. A few reflected boredom, despair, fear, worry. Children's faces were often fretful or crying.

Few faces mirrored pleasure, peace or joy. Few were smiling, even at Disney World!

Persons often say, "All I really want in life is to be happy!" Usually, they have definite ideas of what happiness is. For some, it's love or personal significance. For others, happiness is expressed in physical terms such as money, homes or possessions.

The truth found in Psalm 42:11 reveals the secret of happiness. "Why are you cast down, O my soul? . . . Hope in God; . . . The help of my countenance" (*NKJ*). Some render this last phrase, "He will make me smile."

Often taught but seldom observed, the principle is true that life-happiness proceeds only from God. He alone knows what we need to fulfill our innermost desires on a daily basis. Only God can bring the highest excellence into our meager reaches for success.

A noted Christian psychologist says we end up on dead-end streets because we incorrectly assume we know what will make us happy. Only God, who made us the unique individuals we are, holds the key to our happiness and success.

Teen, hope in God. He is the help and health of your countenance. He will make you smile.

Even at Disney World. □

"A happy face means a glad heart, a sad face means a breaking heart" (Proverbs 14:13, Living Bible*).*

EDITORIAL

MARCUS V. HAND
Editor



HOW TO Be Effective



TOO MANY youths are leading ineffective lives. If you are, it may be because you have no meaningful goals.

Lives without meaning are lives that drift. They float along from experience to experience. They have no real purpose, no cause for which they exist.

Without worthy goals you merely reflect whatever influence you meet by chance. You push thoughts of the future out of your mind. Your ambitions become tarnished by the whims of circumstance. You settle for less than you should; you are satisfied with being less than you can be. You watch the dreams that can transform you vanish little by little each day.

How can you reverse this trend in your life and get back on track? How can you make your life count? How do you go about setting meaningful goals?

1. *Begin with your relationship with God.* Make sure you have received His forgiveness and grace. A parent or youth leader is waiting to assist you in this step. Better yet, don't wait; do it now (1 John 1:9).

2. *Understand why God has placed you here.* You are on earth by design, not by accident. You are here to bring glory to God with your life and to fulfill specific purposes. The way you are made, your personality variables, the things that have happened to you, the people you've met—all these contribute to the process of helping you discover your purpose in life.

3. Once you know what your purpose is, *begin to visualize the person you want to become in Christ.* Dream great dreams. Plan for a fantastic future. You won't always be what you are now. You are in the process of becoming.

4. *Write out specific goals that you want to accomplish.* Put them where you can see them often. Keep the dreams alive.

5. *Trust God completely.* Realize that only He can make you what you need to become. And He will. "I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns" (Philippians 1:6, *Living Bible*).

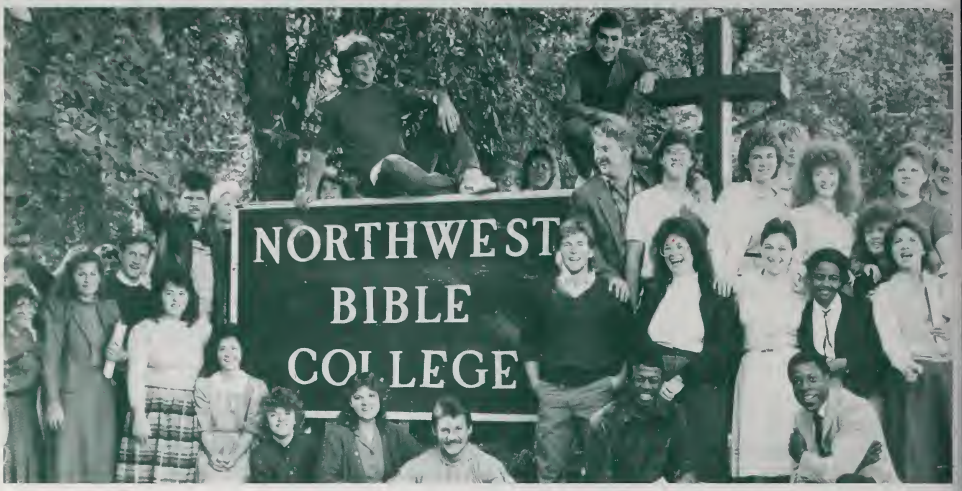
6. *Do everything you can to prepare yourself.* Your college days are so very important. Choose carefully and prayerfully. Your college experience can help you put the pieces of the puzzle together. Cherish every moment. Savor every experience.

Finally, "Make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

"For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive" (2 Peter 1:5-8, *New International Version*). □

Tony Freeman Photo

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Carman COMIN' ON STRONG



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Gatlinburg '85

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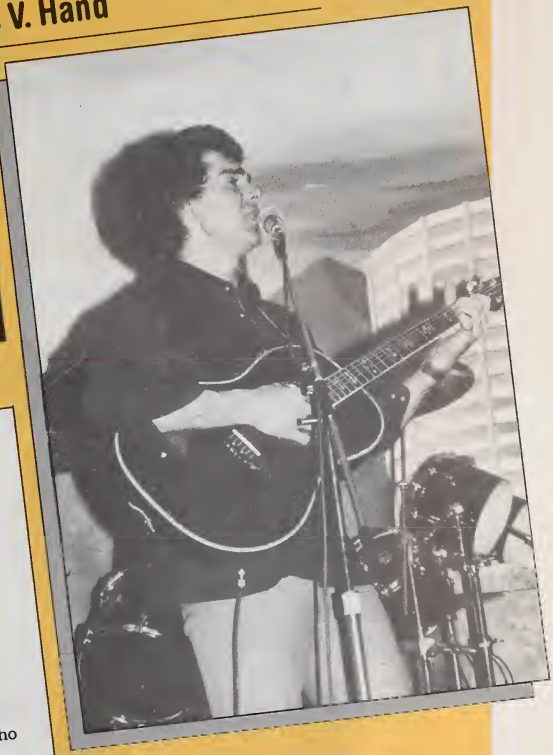
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Gatlinburg '85

COMIN' ON STRONG

by Marcus V. Hand





HIS T-SHIRTS on sale in the foyer read, "I'm a Bible-toting, Scripture quoting, Sin defacing, Devil chasing, Chorus humming, Guitar strumming, Gospel preaching, Soul reaching, OVERCOMING CHILD OF GOD!"

Inside the hotel ballroom, Carman is singing. One of America's top contemporary gospel recording stars, this handsome Italian-American who grew up in New Jersey has the undivided attention of a group of Church of God young people. Pulsating rhythms sweep in waves across the crowded room and heighten the excitement in an atmosphere already charged with music. It's Gatlinburg '85.

You have come to a Christian retreat in midwinter. The resort town of Gatlinburg,

A *Lighted Pathway* report on Gatlinburg '85



Phil Looney, Matt Willets, David Looney, and Ray Looney



"Rev. Shagnasty" and Danny Murray



Youth groups from
states were prese



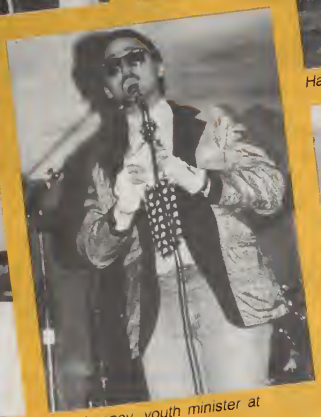
Lovely Gatlinburg





Harvest sings beautifully!





Ray Looney, youth minister at Roswell, Georgia



Rev. W. A. Davis gets an award.

Tennessee, on the edge of the Great Smokey Mountains is an ideal place for it. The young people around you have come from only 31 churches in ten states. But they are more than 1,400 strong.

This annual winter youth retreat was started two years ago by some concerned youth pastors. Each felt a need to have his entire youth group together in a structured environment, away from home, for intense sessions of discipleship training. The Gatlinburg retreat focuses on "youth group ministry" rather than integrating young people from all the churches together. Each youth pastor or leader brings his own workers and is responsible for the discipline, as well as the discipling, of his group. Three hundred the first year grew to more than 700 last year, then to the record attendance this February.

Dr. R. Lamar Vest, president of Lee College, is the devotional speaker for the entire retreat. Everybody enjoys the evening fun times together

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

and there are musical packages. But the thrust is on individual group togetherness.

A highlight is the ministry of Danny Murray and Harvest from Lee College. Moving without effort from the traditional to the contemporary, from slow songs to the up-tempo, from "fun" songs to heart-searching hymns, they never fail to lead the youthful audience in worship.

You worship. You see those around you worshiping. You are thankful for youth ministers like:

Sam Belisle, Doraville, Georgia
John Barrett, East Ridge, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Jack Kirkendall, Mt. Olive, Cleveland, Tennessee
Mark Medlin, Riverdale, Georgia
Ray Looney, Roswell, Georgia
Terry Bolton, Sale Creek, Tennessee
Tommy Madden, Harlan Park, Middletown, Ohio.

They organized the retreat, serving as committee chairmen.

Carman has been billed as the feature. You expect to be entertained. You've heard his "Some A Dat" and you are familiar, somewhat, with his style. Carman writes the songs he sings and it's obvious he has fun. But his songs always preach a message. Some older listeners (some younger ones, too!) raise an eyebrow at some titles, like "Temptation Boogie." But you listen to the song and you know that every youth faced with temptation relates to it.

His delivery on many of the songs is a kind of fast-paced, semi-rapping style. The story-telling element is strong.

Judy Jacobs sings with Harvest.



Praise and worship seem to be a necessary part of his performance.

Suddenly, it hits you. Carman is doing more than performing, or even singing. He is ministering!

And you are ministered to! Along with 1,400 others. He's been drinking, Carman sings, from "The Well." Nobody believes he can be this happy and carefree without being drunk. You understand. "When God speaks," the words of another song say, "everybody listens—even E. F. Hutton!"

Every song is strongly biblical. In "Lazarus, Come Forth," a current gospel hit, you feel resurrection power. In "Get Outta My Life," you want to stand in your seat and shout the rebuke to Satan, "Get outta my life!" The dialogue between Satan and one of his chief demons about the Crucifixion and promised resurrection of Jesus is powerful in the number, "Sunday's on the Way."

Afterwards, youth groups stand on the balconies overlooking the circular atrium of the multistoried hotel lobby and sing worship choruses for vespers before going inside to Bible study and prayer.

The responsive crowd and the enthusiastic worship assures you that lives are being changed and commitments are being made.

You borrow the title from Carman's latest album on Myrrh label; you know that Church of God young people are "Comin' on Strong!"

And you take a T-shirt home with you. □



Time To Be a Witness

by Gloria Chisholm

"I'M PREGNANT, SHARON," Paula said, without blinking an eye. "I wanted to tell you before someone else did."

I sat there, stunned. What could I say? Paula was my age, 16, too young to be a mother.

"Are you getting married?" I asked.

"I don't know." Paula looked down, finally showing some emotion. "Brad wants to finish high school first."

"Well . . . what are you going to do?"

Sometimes it's better just to be there when you are needed . . .

She shrugged. "A friend of mine thinks I should get an abortion. But you can't just take something that's part of you and someone you love and kill it."

She jumped up from the couch. "I gotta go. Brad's coming over. We've got to talk some more."

I walked to the door with her.

"I wanted to be the one to tell you," she said.

"I'm glad you did."

Paula looked around the living room.

"We've come a long way since we used to play here with our dolls." She gave me a crooked smile.

"We sure have."

"Well, I'll be seeing ya'." She seemed reluctant to go, but then turned and hurried down the steps.

As I watched her cross the street to her house, it seemed the same as any other time when we'd had to quit playing because it was dinnertime or something. But I knew better. Things were different now.

We had grown up together and were friends until two years ago when she began to run with the wildest bunch of kids at school. Then I became a Christian and tried to convince her to become one too. But by that time she'd met Brad and wanted no part of anything but him. Of course I overdid it, as new Christians often do. The more I preached to her, the more she came to resent me until finally we were hardly speaking.

That's the reason I found it difficult to talk to her when she came over. We hardly knew each other anymore. If I'd have thought she'd be any more open to hearing about Jesus than before, I'd have told her that He could help her out. But she hadn't given me the chance. We probably talked, at the most, ten minutes.

When people are down, they tend to think about God. Maybe this was my opportunity and I should have grabbed it. But now that Paula had told me about her pregnancy, I thought I wouldn't see her any more than before.

To my surprise, Paula came over a few days later.

"My mother wants your mother's fruitcake recipe," she said.

Mom came from the kitchen and smiled at Paula. "Hi, Paula. I'll write it down for her. Sharon, why don't you take Paula and show her your room? She hasn't seen it since you painted."

"Okay." I was glad for something to do. I led the way upstairs.

"Far out," Paula said as we entered my bedroom. "That's a pretty shade of blue." She picked up a snapshot from my desk. "Who's this?"

"His name's Dave," I said. "I've been dating him quite a bit."

"Oh yeah. He must be the one in that green car. You're so lucky." She replaced the picture and flopped down on the bed.

"Why's that?"

"Because you have a nice boyfriend. You've got your head together. I don't know whether I'm coming or going. I hate being pregnant. I can't plan for the future. I won't even be graduating with our class next year. The baby is due in November."

"How are your folks taking this?" I asked.

"They're uptight," Paula said. "But that's nothing new. They're uptight with everything I do. They can't stand Brad. They act like I'm a total failure and I guess I am."

I was trying to figure out how I could bring the Lord into the conversation without being too obvious when there was a rap at the door and my mother appeared.

"Here's the recipe." She handed the index card to Paula. "I hope she enjoys it."

She thanked my mother and was gone.

I prayed for Paula again that night before I went to bed. I prayed that God would let me witness to her during this time when she was down. I'd prayed this prayer before, but it hadn't been answered. I thought I'd better remind Him.

School let out for the summer and I didn't expect to see Paula as much, but it seemed like I saw her more than ever. Sometimes she made excuses to come over, sometimes she didn't bother. Either way, I knew she was just coming over to talk. A couple of times when I was busy, I almost told

her so. Since I wasn't getting to witness to her, it seemed like a waste of time to sit and be a sounding board for all of her problems. But I never saw anyone visit her, except Brad. If I was patient, maybe I'd get that golden opportunity to talk to her about the Lord.

One night I heard Brad's tires squeal as he took off from Paula's house. Immediately there was a pounding at the door. I found Paula standing there sobbing. Fortunately, my parents were sensitive to this and disappeared.

Paula threw her purse on the couch and turned to face me.

"Sharon, sometimes he makes me sick," she cried. "It seems like all we ever do is argue. I think he's trying to make me hate him so that he won't have to feel guilty when he ditches me for good. I don't know what to do. Sometimes I love him and sometimes I hate him." She burst into tears all over again. "I wish . . . I'd never . . . been born."

A sudden wave of compassion hit me. Those months of watching Paula grow larger and more miserable had finally taken their toll on me too. I'm usually not the mushy type, but I rushed to her and put my arms around her. She clung to me, sobbing, for a long time. When she was finally done, she dropped onto the couch and let out a long sigh.

She was at the end of her rope and I was sure I would be able to witness to her this time. But then she started talking again.

"If only I could make up my mind. Most of our fights lately are because I can't decide what I'm going to do with the baby. Brad wants to know." She smiled slightly. "I'm feeling it move now. I don't think I could give it away."

Paula rose from the couch. "Hey, Sharon, will you pray for me and Brad, that something will work out?"

"I have been already." Here was my chance.

"Good," she said. "I better get home. My mother heard us drive up and she'll be calling the police any minute. It's past curfew. Ha!" She laughed wryly. "It's weird having to still obey your parents when you're beginning to feel like a parent yourself. Thanks for listening, Sharon."

And she was gone.

Before I knew it, school had started once more. I became so busy with Dave and various school projects that a whole month flew by before I talked to Paula again.

I was sitting on the front porch doing my nails one afternoon when she came across the street to my house. She was smiling for a change.

"Hi," she said. "I haven't talked to you for a while. How's school?"

"Okay."

"Yeah, I kinda miss it."

"How's everything with you and Brad?" I asked.

"Terrific!" She beamed. "We're getting along so much better now that we've finally made the decision to keep our baby. We love each other and we want to get married. Brad is going to finish school."

"I'm glad to hear that," I said.

"I came over to tell you how much I appreciate all those times you listened to my problems. At first I expected you to preach to me and I was really surprised when you didn't. My parents preach at me enough. I didn't have anyone else to talk to and it's been nice to be able to come over and pour out my troubles."

"I wish I could've done more. I'm glad you told me you're keeping the baby because the girls at my church want to give you a shower."

"You're kidding!" Paula said. "They don't even know me."

"Some of them know you from school. When I told them about you, it was their idea."

"Wow!" Paula shook her head. "Christians really are different. When you first became one, you told me how to do it. I was wondering if you'd run through it once more. I might want to become one some day."

I thanked God silently for answering my prayers and ran upstairs to get my Bible.

I guess sometimes it's better to *be* a witness than to witness. □



Above the ARCTIC CIRCLE

by Sylvia H. Bell



Sylvia Bell (center, back row), wife of the Reverend Wade H. Bell, overseer of Mississippi, is shown with some of the Eskimo children she shared the gospel with in Alaska.

A delightful account of witnessing in America's northernmost state

SO THIS WAS it, the place I had only heard and read about in geography. Land of the midnight sun in the summer and the place of several months of darkness in the winter.

I had met several dear Eskimo friends in Anchorage where our state office and parsonage are located. In fact, a couple of Eskimo teens had flown several hundred miles from their little town of Kotzebue, where there are no roads in or out, to attend youth camp.

My husband was state overseer in Alaska and now I was in their territory, approximately 35 miles inside the Arctic Circle. The non-Eskimo is a definite minority here. The Eskimo lives in a sometimes confusing world where the customs and lifestyle of his forefathers become mixed with an ever-changing, modern society.

The sun glistened on the deep banks of hardened snow that lined the small Kotzebue airstrip on that cold April afternoon. Irene Stokes, wife of an Anchorage pastor, and I had been invited to come for a "citywide" Kids Krusade sponsored by the Kotzebue Ministerial Association. What an exciting experience to be going to minister to a group of children in the small Eskimo village! We were met at the airport by Pastor and Mrs. John Steinberg.

As we drove the short distance to the parsonage, our eyes took in everything. There are only five to eight miles of road in Kotzebue, and in the winter a snowmobile is more useful than an automobile. I knew that Eskimos in Alaska do not live in igloos; they use them only for shelter during hunting trips. However, I was surprised to see the small wooden buildings they live in. I wondered how they could ever be heated. (A paradox of Alaska is that although oil is being pumped through a pipeline 800 miles across the state to be shipped to the "lower 48," heating is one of Alaska's most expensive costs.)

We arrived at the "parsonage," an apartment built over the church sanctuary. This is economical because land is expensive and buildings must be constantly heated to prevent pipes from freezing.

The Steinbergs' five children met us with great anticipation. Who could ever forget the look of delight on their faces as we unpacked the boxes of fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread we had brought with us from Anchorage. These items are scarce and expensive in Kotzebue because they have to be flown in. We gave the pastor's children individual gifts. They had not been out of Kotzebue in several years and they welcomed visitors.

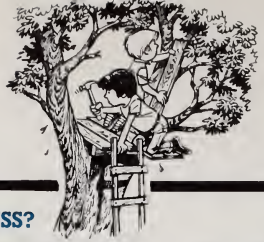
Final preparation was made for the Kids Krusade. Service was held in the basement of the Friends Church while the adults attended a revival in the sanctuary. I soon discovered that although my body was used to Anchorage weather, I was not accustomed to the cold inside the Arctic Circle.

And the children came—those beautiful, black-haired, dark-eyed children. They sat enraptured by story and song each evening. They responded in prayer to the invitation. Mothers with their lovely fur parkas and sweet, fat babies on their backs visited with us as they came each evening to take their children home.

I returned two years later for another Kids Krusade. I have taught many children over the years, both in church and in public school. I have many happy memories, especially of our four years in Alaska. But of all the lovely memories I have of the beautiful scenery and the many people we ministered to, I shall never forget those Eskimo children.

I have been told that the Eskimo does not always respond lovingly to the "white man." However, I knew they had accepted me with love when those children presented me with a gorgeous blue parka. Some of the village ladies had made it with their own hands; it was trimmed with the distinctive white Arctic fox that some of the men had trapped.

I shall always love those Eskimo children. □



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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

CHASING LOST DONKEYS

Or How to Have Really Rich Relationships

by Larry Pemberton

HE SHOULD HAVE known he was in for trouble when his father sent him out to find lost donkeys. Before he came home, however, he was king.

Not a bad donkey roundup!

His name was Saul and for 42 years he was king of Israel. The day he was elected, the people had to dig him out of the baggage where he was hiding. His reign came to an end when he fell on his own sword in the heat of battle.

In between, Saul had every opportunity for success you could imagine; he blew each one. The story of this man's life is not pretty.

The saddest thing about Saul was his uncanny ability to foul up every relationship in his life; from his army, to his son, to God himself. He just couldn't pull off a meaningful relationship.

Saul was a user. If you could help him out, you were in tight; if you couldn't, you became a spear catcher.

His poorest relationship was with himself. Even though he was king, his self-concept was low. You could see it in his pompous attitude. You could see it in the way he was afraid when he shouldn't have been, and bold when it was stupid to be bold. Most of all, you could see his poor self-concept in the way he treated others.

People who don't love themselves don't love anyone.

Now, the question in all this is, "What about you?" Think of the opportunities you have for meaningful relationships.

How are you handling them?

Do you know what makes a meaningful relationship?

How do you stand with the important people in your life?

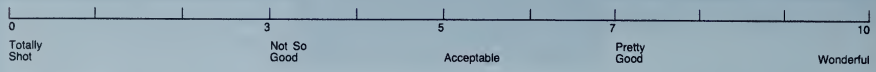
Before we take a closer look at Saul and his problems, let's take a closer look at you and your relationships.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP INVENTORY

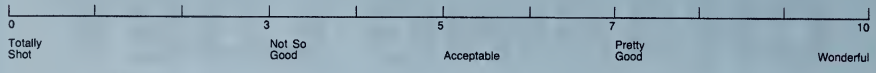
Rate Yourself

On the scales below, put a mark at the point which represents about where you are in your relationships.

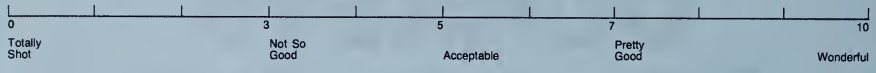
1) With my friends:



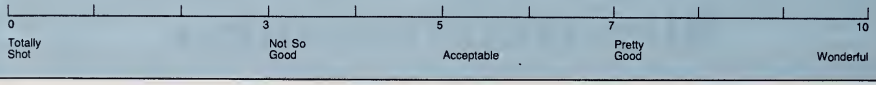
2) With my family:



3) With myself:



4) With God:



A LOOK AT RELATIONSHIPS

1. When a relationship is going really well I know it because

2. The elements of a good relationship are

3. The biggest problem I find in building relationships is

4. Some things I can do to solve or eliminate this problem are

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

LOOK IN THE WORD

No doubt about it, Saul had trouble with relationships. In fact, it might well be argued that he would have been a success instead of a failure if he had put his relationships in proper perspective.

As we look into the Bible for details of Saul's relational problems, think about what the Word is telling you about your own relationships. (Try this Bible study using the *New International Version.*)

SAUL AND HIMSELF

1. Describe an outstanding physical characteristic of Saul (1 Samuel 9:2).
2. List some other characteristics that made him admirable (10:20-24):

3. Read *15:17.* How did he change his opinion of himself?

4. Read *18:6-9.* Discuss why jealousy is a sure sign you lack self-confidence.

HIS FAMILY AND HIS FRIENDS

1. Saul's son disagreed with him in *19:1-7.* Whose responsibility is it to initiate mending broken relationships in families?
2. Read *20:1-3.* Was Saul being honest with his son? What sort of pressure did this put on Jonathan?
3. Read *verses 30-33* and describe briefly Saul's reaction to Jonathan?
4. Do you think Saul would have killed his son?
5. Read *10:24-26* and *11:14, 15.* How important is it for friends to confirm what you feel is God's calling for you?
6. Read *15:24-31* and describe Saul's relationship with Samuel after Saul had sinned.
7. What was Saul's excuse for his sin? (*v. 24*)
8. Contrast the status of Saul's relationship with David on different occasions in *16:21-23* and *18:8-13.*

SAUL AND GOD

1. What were some signs early in Saul's life that God had anointed him?

9:15, 16 _____

10:1 _____

10:5, 10 _____

11:6 _____

2. *Chapter 15* describes one of Saul's major sins. Discuss obedience in light of *verse 22.*
3. To what is rebellion compared in *verse 23?*
4. How did God feel about Saul then (*v. 35*)?
5. Read the final result of Saul's broken relationship with God in *28:15-17.*
6. Saul's death is described in *31:3, 4.*

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Good relationships depend on where you look.

LOOK UP

Take a good look at God; it is more important for you to be in proper relationship with Him than anyone else!

Answer these questions for yourself:

_____Have I truly been born again?

_____Am I living like a child of God?

_____Do I spend enough time with God?

_____How well do I know God?

_____Do I care about the things God cares about?

If you have a problem in your relationship with God, go no further. Nothing will work out right until you straighten things out with Him.

Turn to *Psalm 51* and pray the prayer of David in *verses 1-15*!

LOOK IN

Next, take a look inside. The Bible tells you to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 19:19), but psychologists say that as many as six out of ten people don't like themselves.

What about you? Take a good look inside. Read Psalm 139:23, 24 and ask God to help you answer these questions:

_____What do I really care about most?

_____Am I comfortable with who I am?

_____Am I a person who can be trusted in a relationship?

_____Would I like to have me as a friend?

_____What kind of friend am I to God?

LOOK OUT

After you have worked on your relationship with yourself and with God, you can really begin to work on your relationship with others.

Answer these questions in your own heart:

_____What kind of son or daughter am I?

_____What am I doing to improve my relationship with my parents? my brothers and sisters?

_____What kind of friend am I?

_____What am I doing to get friends?

_____What sort of friends do I want to have? Why?

"There are 'friends' who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24, *Living Bible*).

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Don't spend the good years of your life chasing lost donkeys, seeking elusive dreams. Get to work on the relationships that God has planned to make your life full and rich!

Stick with God; He will stick with you!

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:9-18, *NIV*). □

HANDLING CONFLICTS

by Larry Pemberton



Author of *Called to Care*, the writer talks about conflicts in relationships . . .

GOD MADE US complex creatures. You and I have hardly begun to understand why we behave, think, feel, and relate as we do. We are just plain hard to figure out.

When we are placed in a variety of interpersonal relationships with peers, teachers, parents, siblings and others, the possible relational problems increase. Conflict is inevitable! Some characteristics are common to any conflict situation. As you become aware of these basics, you will be better able to deal with interpersonal conflicts.

THE INTERACTION COMPLEX

Each of us brings a number of problem possibilities into each interpersonal relationship. There are aspects of myself that you and I both know about—this is my *public* self. There are aspects of myself that I know about but you don't—this is my *hidden* self. There are aspects of myself that you can see plainly but I can't—this is my *blind* self. Finally, there are things about me that neither you nor I are aware of—this is my *buried* self.

These four aspects of me influence interpersonal communication and increase the potential for difficulties in relationships. Consider these myths of conflicts:

Myth #1: **"All conflict is bad."** This is not true. Sometimes conflict presents an opportunity for growth by bringing those hidden and blind areas out into the open.

Myth #2: **"Effective communication resolves all conflict."** Again, this is not always the case. I can communicate my feelings about you effectively and still make you angry!

Myth #3: **"Both parties are responsible."** The old "it-takes-two-to-tango" adage is not always true. In many cases, only one of the parties is responsible for the conflict.

THE CAUSES OF INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT

Social behaviorists tell us that the cause of interpersonal conflict is usually one of the following:

1. A difference over facts—"But you said I could have the car tonight."

2. A difference over goals—Example: Dad's goal is to maintain order in the home; your goal is to express your independence.

3. A difference over methods—Example: Mom scrapes the dishes before she washes them; you dump them right into the soapy water.

4. A difference over values—"She just doesn't understand how important track is to me!"

Look at how these causes work in conflicts with your parents.

CONFLICT WITH PARENTS

Parental conflict is one of the most common teenage problems. What causes conflict between you and your parents? What can you do about it? Here are some causes.

Differences over facts. In the past two or three years, you have discovered enormous new intellectual abilities. You can reason logically and abstractly.

Your parents seem surprised when you have an opinion about certain things.

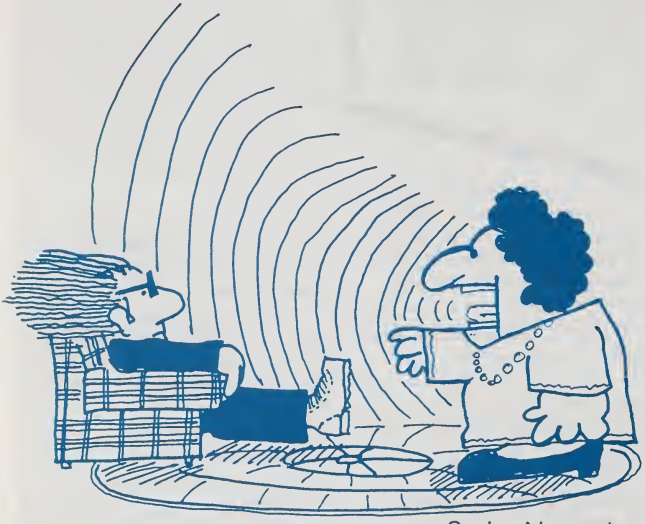
You and your family often have a different perception of the facts. The problems are magnified by poor communication skills; busy, conflicting schedules; different areas of interest; fatigue; anger; and frustration.

when you try to share with them your goals.

Become acquainted with your parents' goals then they will be more open to yours. Some family goals are best set, for instance, with adequate input from each family member or even by a family vote. Other goals, however, should be set by your parents.

ways of proving how well you can do a particular thing.

Differences over values. You get the feeling your parents just don't care about the things you care for. On the other hand, you know they feel the same way about you. They wonder why you don't care about the values they communicate to you. Think of such areas as work, music, religion, dress, friends, school.



Corky Alexander

Differences over goals.

You are goal-oriented whether you are aware of it or not. Even avoiding pain and discomfort can become a goal.

Your goals sometimes conflict with those of your parents. You find it difficult to get excited about their plans. On the other hand, they seem bored

Differences over methods. How did you feel when you discovered for the first time that you could do something better than your father? Or your mother?

Another question: How did your parents feel? Did they feel threatened? It is important to consider your parents' feelings and develop alternative

RESOLVING CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

There are several ways of coping with conflict. You can do it by avoiding conflict situations. Another way is to deny that it exists and give in. A third way to cope with conflict is to appeal to an outside authority. A fourth and final way is to hold your feelings and conflicts inside until you eventually explode.

I am suggesting four ways to effectively resolve conflicts with your peers or your parents.

1. Define the problem. What is causing the conflict? Is it a difference over facts? goals? methods? values?

2. Develop alternatives. List other ways of expressing the facts, setting goals, deciding on methods, or establishing values.

3. Decide on a solution. Decide to get the facts straight. Determine to do something about the conflict.

4. Rely on God's help. The Bible's instructions concerning relationships speak to us today: "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Corinthians 1:10, *NIV*). □

A missionary talks about some unexpected hazards she and others face while working for Christ overseas . . .

Tangling With Barbed Barriers

by Molly Ekstrom

THE LANGUAGE barrier is made of barbed wire.

The serious language learner, including the missionary who's trying to learn to use a language for everyday communication, is sure to run into it. When he does, he's quite likely to get his pride punctured, his poise scratched and his dignity shredded (at least temporarily).

Nothing serious, you understand. But he'll never forget his language-learning time; he'll laugh about his embarrassing moments for the rest of his life. It's those red-faced moments that bring welcome comic relief to what otherwise can seem an endless, tedious task.

The results of tangling with the barbed barrier are quite unpredictable, but the methods of becoming enmeshed follow some fairly standard scenarios.

Transposition: By transposing two vowels in the Spanish word, *tomate* (tomato), my mother managed to provoke loud protests from a market vendor. Instead of *tomate,* she said, *te mato,* which means, "I kill you."

Substitution: Workers in Papua, New Guinea, seem to prefer the substitution method, in which the learner inadvertently substitutes one syllable for another in a word, thus giving it a completely different meaning from that intended.

For example, "How did you get that sore on your leg?" once turned into "How did you get that pumpkin on your leg?" In a country with a history of cannibalism, the phrase "Are you tired?" became "Do you taste sweet?" And "I'd like coconut with the sago palm" changed into "I'd like weeping and wailing with the sago palm."

Omission: A couple in the southwestern region of the United States learned how to order Indian tacos (a piece of Indian dried



bread with the usual taco ingredients heaped on it) at an Indian-owned cafe. While they were eating, the woman who'd taught them how to order the delicacy came into the room. Accidently omitting the word for food, they proudly announced in her language, "We're eating a Mexican!"

Wrong stress: A worker in the Philippines learned the Tagalog (ta-GAH-log) greeting, "Beautiful afternoon." But every time she said it to someone, he or she would laugh and respond, "Beautiful American." Finally she discovered she'd been stressing the wrong syllable in "afternoon," making it "Beautiful Japanese."

Wrong length: A Hopi (HOPE-ee) Indian friend gave our daughter the Hopi name *Simana,* meaning "Flower Girl." But the only difference between the word for flower and the word for intestines is a slight lengthening of the first vowel, along with a little upglide in pitch. Until I learned the difference, I never knew for sure whether I was calling her Flower Girl or Intestine Girl.



"How did you get that pumpkin on your leg?"

Wrong pitch: In some languages pitch alone differentiates between pairs of words with radically different meanings. A classic example is the sermon preached by a missionary in China, in which he told the congregation that it was a sin to be jealous. At least that's what he thought he was telling them. Actually, he used the wrong tone on the word for jealous and told them it was a sin to sweat. Afterwards, one of the leaders asked him, "Is that really a sin?" Being assured it was, he told the missionary, "Then you're sinning right now."

Unsolved puzzlers: Some subtleties may remain puzzles for a long time, even years. After ten weeks' study of the Kiowa (KIE-oh-wah) language at the Summer Institute of Linguistics, I was still unable to distinguish between the Kiowa words for "thank you" and "kill it." I must have seemed my teacher's most ungrateful student.

Grammar: A translator in Mexico "lucked out" and was able to buy a chicken in a culture where food was not



"Is that really a sin?"

customarily sold—because he provided his neighbor with so much amusement by requesting, "Please sell me to your chicken."

Cognates: These are words that are the same, or almost the same, in two languages; sometimes they have the same meaning, sometimes not. A new worker in Brazil wore himself out trying to pantomime his need for carbon paper, only to have a fellow customer provide the word—you guessed it—"carbon." In that case, the cognates had the same meaning.

Synonyms: These are never completely interchangeable in all circumstances, as another young lady in Mexico discovered. Just learning the rudiments of the Spanish language and Latin American customs and culture, she had been told there were several

Spanish expressions more or less synonymous with our English expression "excuse me." One says "pardon me" or "hold me blameless" when one has committed some minor offense, and "with your permission" when one leaves the room or walks between or in front of people.

One day she boarded a crowded streetcar and was unable to find a seat or reach anything to hang onto. When the vehicle lurched to a sudden stop, she landed in a gentleman's lap. Confused and embarrassed, she blushed and blurted out, "With your permission." With true Latin American gallantry, he quickly responded, "But of course, Señorita."

Context clues: These can be very misleading. The classic example of this is the anthropologist who learned a language in a situation where there was no intermediate language to work through. He had to start from scratch, using gestures, objects and a lot of educated guesswork. Attempting to find the expression for "What is it?", he pointed to various objects and always got the same response. He decided that must be the expression he was looking for. After he struggled for a long time with what seemed a very difficult assignment, he learned that his "What is it?" expression was really the word for finger.

Pointing with the finger was not part of that culture, so the people thought he had wanted the word for finger. Of course, they couldn't understand why he was always repeating it.

A British worker tells about her initial trip to a field training course in southern Mexico. Enroute she had numerous stopovers in countries where she couldn't speak the language. Her final stopover before Mexico City was Dallas, Texas. "Here, at last, I'll be able to speak the language," she thought with some relief.

While waiting in the airport, she wrote some letters. Then,



* *Finger*

stopping a passerby, she asked in her precise British English, "Could you please direct me to the place where I can post these letters?"

The woman looked puzzled, thought for a while, and then said, "I'm terribly sorry, but I don't speak Spanish."

So, you see, that barbed wire's always there, but some of us just can't resist crawling through barbed wire fences. We have the scratches and scrapes—and the satisfactions—to prove it.

How about you? Are you interested in language-learning so you can carry God's Word to people who need it? Oh, you'll get your scratches but, like us, you'll live to laugh about them. □

"If you talk to a person in some language he doesn't understand, how will he know what you mean? You might as well be talking to an empty room.

"I suppose that there are hundreds of different languages in the world, and all are excellent for those who understand them" (1 Corinthians 14:9, 10, *Living Bible*).

Taken from *In Other Words,* July/August 1984. Copyright 1984. Used by permission of Wycliffe Bible Translators, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

NATIONAL YOUTH LE

What is the National Youth Leaders Conference?



W. A. Davis: It is a gathering of youth pastors and leaders in the Church of God for a time of training and equipping. It will be a time of fellowship when these people can get together and share ideas, ministry goals, and projections for future ministry in their respective churches. We'll have a lot of good guest speakers.

Who are the speakers?



Richard Dial: Three men from outside the Church of God are going to be a part of the conference. One is Barry St. Clair, head of Reachout Ministries in Atlanta. Larry Keefauver is a pastor from Plantation, Florida and author of *Starting a Youth Ministry*. J. David Stone is a professor at Centenary College in Louisiana and author of *Catching the Rainbow*.

In addition, W. A. Davis will speak at a general session and so will Paul Conn, vice-president of Lee College.

Who is sponsoring the conference?

Davis: It's actually a function of youth pastors within the Church of God. It is approved by the General Board of Youth and Christian Education and endorsed by the General Department of Youth and Christian Education.

Where did the idea for a National Youth Leaders Conference originate?



Randy Steele: It is the brainchild of youth ministers who see the need of fellowship and the need for further equipping themselves for youth ministry in their local churches. Youth pastors will be able to share like concerns, like goals, and gain support from each other.

Dial: The desire came not through a committee from General Headquarters; it came as a request from local church youth pastors. They approached the general department and the General Board about cosponsoring the conference.

What do you hope to accomplish by the conference?



Darrell Rice: I see the National Youth Leaders Conference as focusing on a threefold objective. It will help youth leaders develop a heart for God's leadership, intensify the burden and zeal of youth leaders in their youth ministries, and help them secure a clear direction and gain know-how in fulfilling their ministries.

Steele: I hope the credibility of the local church youth pastor will be raised. We want each youth leader who attends to receive training so that he or she can better minister to young people in local churches. We hope the awareness of youth ministry in the Church of God in general will be enhanced.

Suppose a church does not have a full-time youth pastor. Can this church send a youth leader to the meeting?

Steele: Yes, a full-time, paid staff person; a part-time youth leader; a volunteer; or anyone in leadership capacity who is touching youth in the local church.

Dial: It's also open to other people, such as those who teach in colleges in the area of youth ministry. State directors are encouraged to attend. So it's for anyone who deals with youth ministry in whatever capacity.

How will the conference benefit the local youth worker who is serving on a voluntary basis, whose full-time job is not youth ministry?

Rice: As youth leaders

ERS CONFERENCE

An interview with W. A. Davis, general director of youth and Christian education; Richard Dial, coordinator of youth ministries; Randy Steele, minister of youth at Westmore, Cleveland, Tennessee; and Darrell Rice, state director of North Georgia.

fellowship, pray, worship, and listen to each other, they will gain insights as to how they, as volunteers, can better minister to young people and serve the kingdom. I feel that the volunteers will gain most from the meeting. Full-time youth pastors have been exposed to more material. The greatest need in youth ministry is to equip the volunteer youth leader.

Steele: He or she is going to be exposed to a lot of curriculum that's available, a lot of material, a lot of books that will help him or her in planning programs and ministries in the local church. One of the goals we're striving for in this conference is to be practical. Participants will learn the dynamics of holding youth meetings with young people. Everything is focused on ideas that are usable.

Davis: Besides the resources, I think a benefit is the networking of these people so that they understand they are not by themselves. The general department wishes to service needs; we want to be mindful of the local congregation and its needs. The state director wants to do the same. Participants will meet other youth leaders who will become their resource persons and prayer partners, so that when there is a problem or a need they can call others and have interaction. They're not just standing there alone. We want to build a bond between the goals of the general department, the state youth department, and what local youth pastors are doing.

Where will the conference be held?

Steele: At Falcon Inn in Suwanee, Georgia, on Interstate 85. The cost is $170 if you come as an individual. (Spouses can come for little more.) This includes the conference fee, notebook, lodging at the hotel, and five meals. We structured the conference this way to give an opportunity for youth pastors and leaders to fellowship together and get to know one another. We could have gone to a campground or to a church where people would drive in and stay at their own hotels, but we wanted a setting where they could be with one another morning, noon, and night. There will be a lot of recreational activities available.

Again, one of the primary purposes of the conference is to network youth leaders so that people from Michigan can meet people from Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and throughout the United States. This kind of format lends itself to our purposes.

Rice: Some of the most creative ministry concepts have been derived from times of close fellowship when persons with like ministries, shared burdens, and similar vision in youth ministry get together. We feel that this is one of the strongest points of the conference.

What is the date?

Davis: April 30 through May 2, 1985.

How can interested persons get information?

Steele: Write to National Youth Leaders Conference, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, Tennessee 37320-2430 or call (615) 472-3361.

A final question: What excites you most about youth ministry in the Church of God?

Rice: Youth ministry in the Church of God is becoming more person-centered rather than program-centered. It must touch all areas of discipleship rather than merely surviving from crisis to crisis and from fad to fad. We must structure our youth ministries and design them to meet needs rather than to meet crises. I am encouraged about the way youth ministry is going in our church and I believe the National Youth Leaders Conference will contribute to these efforts. □

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DEVOTIONAL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

April 1—Luke 12:27-34
April 2—Matthew 10:29-33
April 3—2 Kings 4:8-17
April 4—1 Kings 17:8-16
April 5—Genesis 18:17-19
April 6—Matthew 28:16-20
April 7—Acts 3:1-10
April 8—Psalm 100
April 9—Galatians 6:1-10
April 10—Psalm 103:1-5, 17-19
April 11—Luke 22:39-46
April 12—Luke 23:32-46
April 13—Luke 23:50-56
April 14—Luke 24:1-12
April 15—Romans 8:26-34
April 16—Mark 1:29-31
April 17—2 Kings 19:14-19, 32-35
April 18—Luke 6:36-45
April 19—Luke 9:10-13, 35-38
April 20—Luke 10:30-37
April 21—1 Peter 2:9-17
April 22—John 6:67-69
April 23—Mark 14:1-9
April 24—Hebrews 12:1-4
April 25—2 Corinthians 4:7-10, 16-18
April 26—Psalm 19:7-14
April 27—Isaiah 55:1-4, 6-11
April 28—Matthew 13:18-23
April 29—Ephesians 6:10-18
April 30—Colossians 3:16-24

Youth Leaders Only

Be sure to attend the National Youth Leaders Conference this month. Offered to help you as a maturing leader, the conference will also point the way to valuable resources in youth ministry. Read about it in the article on page 22.

The *Lighted Pathway* is your companion for personal growth and encouragement. It is also designed as a supplement for you to use in your weekly youth meetings. Here is how you can use this issue.

WEEK 1:

The issue: Witnessing

Resource: "Time to Be a Witness," page 7
"Above the Arctic Circle," page 10

WEEK 2:

The issue: Missions

Resource: "Tangling With Barbed Barriers," page 19
"Letter From China," page 26

WEEK 3:

The issue: Relationships I

Resource: "Chasing Lost Donkeys," page 13
"Comin' on Strong," page 3

WEEK 4:

The issue: Relationships II

Resource: "Handling Conflicts," page 17
"Steps to Meaningful Relationships," page 27

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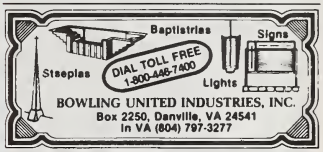
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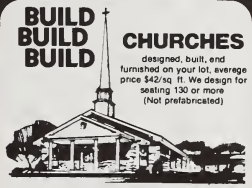
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Excerpts of a Letter to Julie Beach

From Carolyn Dirksen, Republic of China

Dear Julie,

Thanks for the nice letter.

Let me tell you some interesting things about our school. There are far too many students to fit into our library, so you can't read or study there. You turn in your book number, the librarian gives you the book, you check it out and leave. There are eight students in each dormitory room so there is not much space to study there either. The students all study in the classroom. They have all their classes in one room and everyone has an assigned seat.

Unfortunately, the school turns off the electricity in the classrooms at 9:30 p.m. They turn it off in the dormitory at 10 p.m. After the lights are turned out, they study by candlelight. Some of them go outside and study by the streetlights. Generally, classes go from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. so their schedules are pretty rough. The library is open during the hours they have class, so they have to miss class to check out books. This doesn't make research papers any easier.

At the beginning of the semester, the students get a little book of tickets. They aren't for campus events, they are for the shower. This semester, they have 24 tickets (one a week). They are very clean and tidy, however. They have a wash basin in their rooms (not a sink—a bowl). For laundry there is a spigot next to each dormitory.

The students always have a thermos of hot water. They take them to class and carry them everywhere. The water can be used for tea, or for washing, or whatever.

All the janitorial work on campus is done by students. They clean their own classrooms and hallways and rake and sweep in front of their buildings. No one in ou whole city has heat except we six Americans. This includes the dormitories. The climat here is very much like Cleveland, Tennessee, so it gets cold—but not cold like your ho state of Iowa.

We are really enjoying our stay here. We've had lots of fun activities and experienc and I'll tell you all about them sometime. Thanks for thinking of us, Julie. It means lot.

Love,
Carolyn

Steps to Meaningful Relationships



Marcus V. Hand, Editor

How many people do you know? How many of them are close friends?

You can relate to only twelve persons in a meaningful way, according to social psychologists. (That means 120 relationship possibilities!) How then does a friendship progress from that of casual acquaintance to a close relationship?

You're in a room full of people. You don't know most of them so you don't look directly at them; you are merely aware that they are there. *Awareness* describes the relationship you have with them.

Some of the persons in the group stand out. The dude in the brown coat. The fox with the long, blonde hair. Motormouth at the end of the room. In your mind they are separated from the others by how they look or what they do. You are aware of their gender and of certain other characteristics. You have moved to another level of relationship: you *acknowledge* these persons.

You meet a few of them personally and move to the *acquaintance* level. At this level what you know of the other person is primarily what he thinks of himself. If his self-image is that of a loser, you see him as a loser. If he acts as though he's got it all together, you conclude *this person has it all together.*

You like what you see in the person and decide you want to know more about him. As you come to know him there are some things you like more than others. But you learn where he's coming from. The two of you begin to listen to each other. You discover each other's feelings. This deeper relationship is called *acceptance.* You don't necessarily accept his values or behavior but you do accept his person.

At this point something happens in a relationship. The friendship begins to fall apart, it remains on this level, or it begins to deepen.

The next stage up is the *affirming* stage. In this stage of a relationship, the friendship deepens. You decide, "I feel good about us." That feeling is reciprocated; the attraction is mutual. Consciously and unconsciously, you begin to affirm each other. You share. You grow closer.

It takes a crucial step to go from the affirming level to the *commitment* level. This is a time of decision. Commitment doesn't "just happen." You have to make a conscious decision. At some point, you have to decide you care enough to commit to this person and to the relationship.

Once a commitment is made, the relationship must move to the *maturing* level or it begins to deteriorate. Relationships can slowly erode, they can be maintained, or they can begin to mature. Right relationships mature.

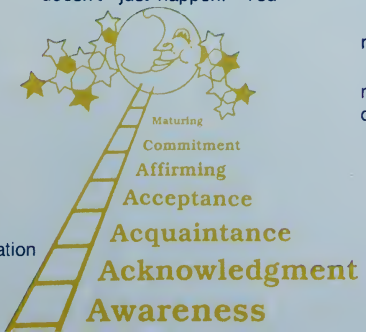
A maturing relationship goes beyond commitment. It includes nurture and growth, as well as acceptance and affirmation. It cannot be neglected or taken for granted. It requires active involvement from both parties.

Building meaningful relationships is important. Choose your friends with care. Your friendship with various persons will peak out at different levels.

You will choose to know some only casually. Others you will want to know better.

Some relationships seem to grow without planning and without effort. To a certain point. But you should maintain control. Know what you are doing as you go about the business of building your life.

- Look at your relationship with two or three friends and see where it stands.
- In your relationship with God, at which level are you now?
- Don't peak out before you make a commitment to God.
- Don't neglect the relationship, once you've made a commitment! □



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10:00-12:00	Concert with Li
Midnight	Whelchel

Saturday, April 20, 1985

9:00 a.m. Academic Advising ar Campus Tours

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12:00 noon Special Lu cheon for High Scho Seniors

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4:00 p.m. "The Great Basketball Sho Out!!"

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Lighted Pathway



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Drinking Is NO FUN



by Yasmin Gagne

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NOT TO BE TAKEN
FROM THIS ROOM

Life is to enjoy," Jim once said. "It's fun to have a few beers once in a while. Besides, who am I hurting by drinking?"

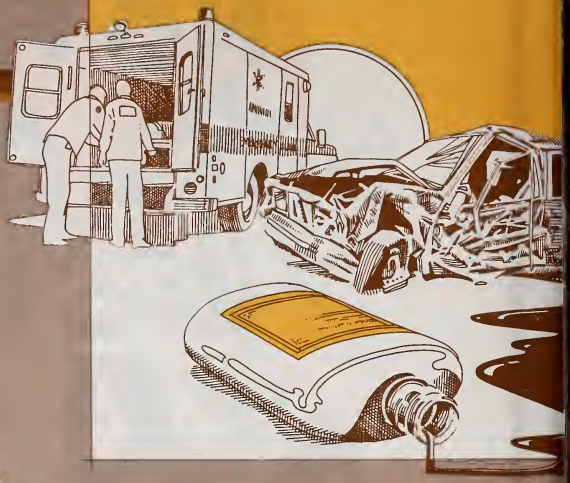
Jim Terence was what his friends called "a good-time guy." On September 9, 1983, however, Jim's Chevette rammed a van on a Vermont road. "Dead on arrival," the police report said, turning the final page in Jim's 17-year-old life.

Contrast this incident with the seemingly innocent words, "Drinking is fun." Yet, today, more than ever, people regard alcohol as the "happy liquid." Why?

Part of the answer is that alcohol is used as a drink of celebrations. Alcohol for a wedding, birthday, or New Year's Eve toast projects the idea that social drinking is harmless and enjoyable enough to put a smile on the face.

TV commercials portray alcohol as a happy liquid. "When I drink I feel like James Coburn advertising his foamy lite beer," said 18-year-old Derek. "There's a guy who looks like he's got it made."

Liquor industries spend millions advertising their products in newspapers, magazines, and on giant billboards, promoting false concepts. A magazine advertisement presents drinking as the rad thing to do, and if you want to look like a model, you must buy the product. They say that liquor makes you more attractive and,



consequently, happier. Their mugs run over.

Far too many young people find these false concepts irresistible. They fall directly into the trap. But let's consider the facts about the effects of alcohol on the mind and body.

ALCOHOL IS YOUR ENEMY

1. Once in the bloodstream, alcohol travels to the liver. Continued drinking may lead to cirrhosis of the liver, an inflammatory disease that causes replacement of liver cells with scar tissue. Tests have shown that cirrhosis can be induced by even moderate alcohol use.

2. Alcohol has been shown to be the causative agent in stomach inflammation and bleeding lesions. The New York City chapter of the National Council of Alcoholism says that if you hold a shot of whisky in your mouth against your inner cheek instead of swallowing it, you will notice an intense burning sensation. This is the same effect it has on the walls of your stomach; they are just as sensitive as the inner cheek.

3. Alcohol tends to impair the absorption of calcium, thiamin, iron, vitamin B12 and certain proteins in the small intestine.

4. Consumption of alcohol impairs concentration and judgment in auto skills, for example. Reaction time, manual dexterity and coordination of movements are slowed. A United States teenager dies in an alcohol-related automobile accident every hour. The leading cause of deaths in the 15 to 24 age group is alcohol-related accidents. A third of all traffic injuries are alcohol related. The fun couple, alcohol and the car produce fatal offspring.

5. Alcohol is classified as a central nervous system depressant.

6. Physical tremors, hallucinations, deliria, and malnutrition are not uncommon among those who are regular drinkers.

Studies show that young people are taking their first drinks at a far earlier age than before. In New York City, there's been a 48 percent increase in the number of 15-year-olds who had their first

drink before the seventh grade. There are no sex barriers either. Just as many females drink as do males, according to these same studies.

A myth among youths is that alcoholism is associated with middle-aged people or hopeless skid row bums. "I can't be considered an alcoholic at my age," declared a 14-year-old girl. But alcoholism strikes daily, irrespective of age, sex, race, or socioeconomic background. Too many believe they'll never be addicted to, or affected seriously by, drinking. "After all," said 16-year-old Jeff, "liquor isn't like cocaine or heroin or anything terrible like that."

WHY YOUTHS DRINK

Why do intelligent people in this advanced society choose to drink? The answer can be any one of a number of factors.

a. Peer pressure

"I remember my first drink," said 19-year-old Patricia. "Four of my friends were drinking one night and everyone was throwing me hints that I was a killjoy to the group. I sputtered and coughed after I tried a vodka and they all laughed. After that, I started drinking for fear of being called 'chicken.' "



b. Easy and quick escape from stress

"My parents were always on my back," said 15-year-old Glen. "Then, I discovered beer. It got me through the hassles at home and I thought I enjoyed the relaxed feeling it gave me. Nothing and no one could get to me when I was high."

c. Symbol of adulthood

Psychologists tell us that the need to be mature and independent is of foremost importance to people between the ages of 13 and 20. In the process of establishing their maturity, adolescents sometimes turn to drinking because to them, a drink represents maturity.

d. Disappearance of shyness

"I used to be scared to death to approach people, often feeling like the only nervous and insecure one in a room," said 16-year-old Angie. "Then I found that drinking could help me relax and forget about my shyness. In fact, I found myself having a great time, even in crowds."

These arguments are common. To many they seem like good reasons for drinking. However, they are myths. They won't hold water!

THE TRUTH AND GOD'S WORD

The pressure to be accepted by taking a drink is phony baloney. A friend may challenge with, "Hey, don't you have the guts to take one measly drink?" Remember, however, that it takes more guts to say "no."

Alcohol will not make you stress-free. It merely adds more problems. Glen, who said beer relaxed him and helped ease the hassles at home, later added, "Soon though, I found it difficult to concentrate on school work. I dropped out of grade 11 and became a laborer. That lasted only a few weeks and other jobs were fewer and further between."

Problems and frustrations, such as disagreements with parents, are an inevitable part of life. However, you can regard those problems as challenges and deal with them head-on, instead of using alcohol as a crutch. For relaxation, exercise is a healthy fun alternative to drinking. It gives not only a sense of accomplishment, but also a sense of positive well-being.

Drinking as a fast means of becoming an adult, represents immaturity, not maturity. In believing that alcohol will automatically make you mature, you're deceiving only yourself. Maturity is your willingness to deal with each day at a time in the best and most intelligent way you know how.

Drinking does not erase shyness. It simply deceives and confuses you into believing you're something you're not. Experts tell us that the only way to overcome shyness is to slowly work towards conquering it, not by masking it.

Drinking in advertising is shown deceptively as fun. Don't be foolish enough to believe it. As a Christian, responsibility to your health is important. Therefore, you can not ignore the harmful effects of alcohol on the mind and body.

As a Christian, responsibility to God's Word is necessary. "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1, *New International Version*). Some of the tragic effects of alcohol, along with warnings against its use, are given in Proverbs 23:29-31.

The Book of Ephesians 5:18 (*NIV*) gives an alternative: "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Drinking is no fun. The horrifying death toll inflicted by drunk drivers is an American tragedy. Your choice to drink or not to drink says a lot about you as a mature Christian individual.

As you begin to use your own ability to deal with everyday situations, you will find yourself being reinforced by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Him, you experience the ultimate high! □

Throw Them a LIFELINE



by Jo Jan Nunley

Twenty million young people live in alcoholic homes today, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Their lives center around the fact that one or both of their parents is an alcoholic.

· Research shows that for approximately every 25 students in a school classroom, six will come from alcoholic homes. Those six are much more apt to drink in their adult lives than children not raised in alcoholic homes.

What is being done for these young people? Unfortunately, not much. Would it make a difference if church members reach out their hands to young people in troubled homes?

Louise, an adult who grew up in a home with two alcoholic parents, says it would. Louise's parents were alcoholic when she was born. She was the oldest child in a family of three children.

Louise describes growing up. "At five years old, I knew things weren't right at home. I sensed my parents didn't treat my younger brother and sister right, but at five, I didn't know they were alcoholics.

"Neighbors lived on both sides and knew there were three children being raised in an alcoholic home. One family asked my parents to go to church; they wouldn't. Then, they invited me to go. I had never been to church before and I was scared to death.

"They were very supportive. They didn't just take me up there and abandon me. They took me to my Sunday school class, introduced me to the teacher, to some of the kids, then picked me up after Sunday school. They took me to church services, introduced me to the pastor and some of the people in the church. They sat with me so that I felt comfortable and at ease.

"Church was such a nice place to go where nice people cared about me. They were really warm and paid attention to me. It was just a very positive experience for me and helped me through from week to week."

Feeling cared about helps because most alcoholics usually neglect or abuse their children. Consequently, their children have low self-esteem and don't feel very good about themselves.

"From the time I was small, I could see the difference between church-going people and my parents," Louise states. "Church people were happy people with positive outlooks. They had happy children. I would come home from church to gloom and doom, hangovers, a dirty house, my brother and sister fighting, my mother and father fighting, and beer cans piled up in the trash can.

"In my mind I would think, I wish I was at church where it is happy."

Church life gave Louise insight to more normal ways of living. Normal for Louise, even at five, was getting up early and fixing breakfast for her young brother and sister. She would pull an old stool up to the stove and cook. When her parents were drinking, which was often, she didn't see them until midday. When they finally got up, they had hangovers and were not interested in the children.

"As a child," Louise says, "I tried very hard to get my sister and brother to go with me to church and did succeed a lot but they drifted away. Of course, I couldn't make them go. As an end result, they didn't have the solid background of the church values that I did and they both have broken marriages and drinking problems. I feel a lot of it is because they didn't have that solid background of the church."

The people at the church were receptive to Louise and made her feel truly liked and valued. They saw that she had transportation to and from services. As a result, she attended services every Sunday for five straight years without missing once. When Louise's parents moved to the country for more solitude in their drinking, the church still provided transportation.

Unfortunately, many children don't have interested Christians to help them. The National Institute on Alcohol and Alcoholism states that in America there seems to be a "conspiracy of silence" about alcoholism. Therefore, these children aren't even recognized as children from troubled homes. No one reaches out a helping hand.

Louise says that children from troubled homes can be recognized. She points out that the things which identify children of alcoholics also may identify children from homes with other kinds of problems, such as drugs. The church could help them also.

"The child from an alcoholic home is invariably timid and shy and reticent to join in anything because normally their parents are not joiners. They hide it (the alcoholism).

"The children may not be dressed like a caring parent would dress them. Their socks may be worn, their dress may

not be the right length, or they may be wearing a summer dress in the winter. Their parents simply don't care, and a young child often doesn't know any better.

"The main clue is that when a child is questioned about his parents, the answers are usually standard. 'My mother is sick. They're not home. They don't get out much.' Any evasive answer to keep an outsider from calling the parents, or from coming by to see their parents. Any way they can put you off without revealing their homelife, they will do it because they are ashamed and embarrassed."

One reason the church was so successful in helping Louise is that they didn't probe about her parents. Children of alcoholics are afraid to rock the boat at home because they are dependent on their parents for basic survival. If the parents feel a child is talking about "family secrets," they may deny the child participation in that particular activity.

Louise remembers a particularly painful incident that occurred when a well-meaning new pastor insisted on visiting her at her home to invite her parents to church. She tried to dissuade him with the usual excuses, but he came unannounced and found her father drinking.

It still hurts her to remember the scene because her father, in a drunken rage, threw the preacher bodily out of the house. If this had happened early in her church attendance, she probably would have quit going.

Louise says, "When you see signs in a child that he is hiding something about his parents, don't keep probing. Just take it to mean that there is something bad wrong in his homelife and that he is trying to cope with it. He wants to keep it a secret because it's too painful for him to share. Don't drop in unexpectedly at his home."

What can you do? If you have a school friend whom you sense is having problems at home, invite him to participate with you at church. If you have a neighbor whom you know is having problems, offer him a ride to church. You can make a difference. The church does make a difference.

Talk with your youth leader or your pastor about an organized effort to reach persons who live in alcoholic homes. Discuss it in your youth group meeting. Make this a conscious ministry.

Today Louise is a sober Christian adult with a stable marriage and two teenage children of her own.

All because, Louise says, Christians cared for her and ministered to her! □



SHARING YOUR HOME WITH

Older Relatives



by Laurie Glieco

"Stop telling me what to do, Gram."

"I *told* you to leave me alone!"

Why is sharing your home with elderly relatives so often a cause of family friction? Some major sources of irritation were cited by teens in a recent survey. *An abundance of unsolicited opinions* was one.

In the words of one boy, "I get sick of my grandfather saying I've got it easy. I know he was working by the time he was 16, but he shouldn't act like all I do at school is fool around. I'm taking a lot of hard courses. Also, I wish he'd quit saying I'm lazy because I don't walk to school like he did. I live so far out I have to take the bus."

A girl sighs, "My grandparents, especially my grandmother, make me feel as though I can't do anything right. The trouble started last year when they sold their house and moved into our garage apartment. They *say* they like having a place of their own rather than living with us, but one or the other is always underfoot telling me what to do. What bugs me even more than the nagging is their acting as though my cousins can do no wrong. Why should I be punished because we've got extra room?"

Another boy says, "Gramp used to be a champion swimmer. He's always at me to work on my strokes and won't listen when I tell him I'm not meant to win ribbons—even if I wanted to."

Still another girl reports, "If I start something and get so busy with school or work I have to put it aside for a while, Gram butts in. When I tell her I don't need her interference, we wind up fighting. Sometimes I think she sticks her nose into things just to cause trouble."

But older people don't always cause trouble. One boy says, "My grandfather told me a quiet house is boring." Another reports, "My grandfather says he might as well be in a nursing home as live the way my mother thinks he should since his heart attack." Older relatives have a need for excitement, too.

Here is another reason elderly housemates are often skillful feather-rufflers. Inflation has made it much harder for people on fixed incomes to maintain their own homes, forcing many of them to move in with children. Older people in such circumstances often feel they belong nowhere. *Instigating an argument is one way of becoming part of the action rather than a bystander.*

This is especially true when the entire family is

drawn into a quarrel. One girl says, "My grandmother knows how I feel about hearing about the 'good old days' from morning until night. I don't mind the stories as much as I do her complaining about how we live today. Telling her to stop in a nice way never works. We wind up screaming at each other. My mother says I'm disrespectful and the next thing you know, everyone's yelling at each other."

A boy declares, "My grandfather hates anything new. I guess old people are like that, but he acts like I'm crazy for not doing things the way they've always been done. We argue about that a lot, and most of the time my whole family eventually winds up not talking to each other. My father says I should give because I'm younger, but I get sick of being treated like I don't count."

Clinging to traditional ways is often seen as a characteristic of advancing age. Some teens mention this as one of the primary drawbacks to living with older relatives. Others express a very different opinion. One girl declares, "My grandmother is a lot more modern than my aunt. Gram says scratch baking is a waste of time when you can use a mix."

"My grandmother understands things I wouldn't dare tell my mother," another says. "This guy I liked went away for the summer. He said he would write but he's kind of shy. I had a feeling I should write the first letter, but I knew Mom would say *that* wasn't proper. Gram said I should trust my own feelings, since I knew Pete a lot better than anyone else. I wrote first and we're still going out."

A boy reports, "My grandfather says nothing bothers you when you've lived as long as he has because you've seen everything!"

EASE THE STRAIN

Despite varied opinions on the positive aspects of having elderly housemates, three generations living under one roof demands a great deal of flexibility on all sides. Here are some ways to make your role a little easier:

1. Learn from your relatives. The traditional image of knitting grandmothers and checker-playing grandfathers is often overdrawn. Many senior citizens have far more varied interests. One girl laughs, "I've become a billiards expert and champion fisherman since my grandfather came to live with us."

"My grandmother knows more about basketball and football than most of the people who get paid for calling the games," a surprised boy reports. Still another admits, "My grandfather taught me a lot more about algebra than either my teacher or the kid who was supposed to tutor me. I don't know how Gramps knows so much when he's always saying modern math is crazy."

Taking advantage of an older person's life experience will save you from many costly mistakes and will make your relative feel needed and wanted. This sense of belonging will do a great deal toward reducing friction.

2. Become a regular nursing home visitor. Better still, be a volunteer worker. Your relative's quirks will be far less irritating, as a result.

3. Avoid self-pity. Since you are living with an older relative, you will receive far more criticism and unsolicited advice than cousins who only see your grandparents on holidays and other special occasions. *Keep in mind, however, that people are hardest on the ones they love the best.*

4. Think before you speak. You probably wish your parents would stop expecting you to give in to the wishes of older relatives just because you are a junior member of the family. Before you explode, however, ask yourself if the reason for your anger is worth the unpleasantness which always follows a disagreement. You'll be amazed at the number of quarrels this question will prevent.

Sharing your home with older relatives can be a rich and rewarding experience. You will cherish these memories for a lifetime.

Even when you become an older relative. □



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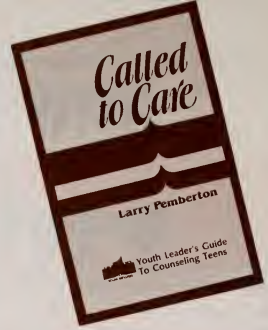
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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

Making Biblical Choices

by Marcus V. Hand, Helen Friesen, and Martha K. Kauffman

War had ravaged their nation. The capital was destroyed. Thousands had died in the conflict that had raged for several years. Now the youths were in a strange country, victims of a resettlement program.

Fate smiled, however. The three young men were chosen for a reserved assignment. They were given special privileges. Suddenly, their standard of living was higher than it had been during the past few years of seige back home.

With privilege came responsibility, however. There were decisions to make each day. Some were small, others were more important. Some, inevitably, affected their ethics, and their faith.

One day they were given the ultimate choice: accept the religion of their captors or . . . *face execution*!

This was not your average execution, however. They would be burned alive! In a heat chamber heated "seven times hotter than usual!"

We know, of course, what choice Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made. Their account is found in Daniel 3.

And we know of God's deliverance because the three young men made the right choice!

What about us? Not too many of us are prisoners of war. Yet, we are faced with tough decisions every day. By now we've learned that simple choices sometimes affect us much more than we realize at the time we're making them.

On the next three pages you'll learn how persons in the Bible arrived at difficult decisions. You will discover truths in God's Word that will help you grow in Christ daily.

An added bonus is a short quiz on quizzes.

THE BIBLE AND DECISION-MAKING

Many persons in the Bible had to make difficult decisions. Here is an exercise to test your Bible knowledge and help you discover how Bible characters made tough choices. Match the person with the decision.

1. ——— Shall I desert my son Ishmael since the water is gone?
2. ——— Do I leave my job as cupbearer to the king?
3. ——— Shall I give refuge to two enemy spies?
4. ——— Can we explain the sale of Joseph to slave traders?
5. ——— Shall we kill the boy babies as the ruler demands?
6. ——— What do I do with money from betraying innocent blood?
7. ——— Shall I leave my family in Moab and go to Bethlehem?
8. ——— Shall I tell the truth that Rebekah is my wife?
9. ——— Do I send to the cross a man I believe is innocent?
10. ——— How important to me is praying facing Jerusalem daily?
11. ——— Do I let the Israelites go worship in the desert?
12. ——— Shall I leave my family in Haran to marry a stranger?
13. ——— Shall I yield to sin with the wife of Potiphar?
14. ——— Is the snake telling the truth that I will be wise as God?
15. ——— Should I chase after those who kidnapped Lot?
16. ——— Do I tell Delilah the source of my strength?
17. ——— Do I go ahead with plans to marry Mary after all?
18. ——— Do I agree with the people that Moses won't return?
19. ——— Can I get the reward that Naaman is offering?
20. ——— Is this plan for salvation really the best way?

a. Rahab (Joshua 2:1-21)
b. Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15-22)
c. Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:11 through 2:8)
d. Ruth (Ruth 1:1-18)
e. Joseph, OT (Genesis 39:1-18)
f. Aaron (Exodus 32:1-10)
g. Rebekah (Genesis 24:1-67)
h. Abram (Genesis 14:11-16)
i. Isaac (Genesis 26:6-11)
j. Hagar (Genesis 21:8-21)
k. Joseph, NT (Matthew 1:18-25)
l. Pharaoh (Exodus 10:21-29)
m. Jacob's sons (Genesis 37:25-36)
n. Pilate (Matthew 27:11-26)
o. Judas (Matthew 27:3-10)
p. Gehazi (2 Kings 5:15-27)
q. Samson (Judges 16:4-17)
r. Daniel (Daniel 6:10-18)
s. Jesus (Matthew 26:36-46)
t. Eve (Genesis 3:1-7)

Answers: (1) j; (2) c; (3) a; (4) m; (5) b; (6) p; (7) d; (8) i; (9) n; (10) r; (11) l; (12) g; (13) e; (14) t; (15) h; (16) q; (17) k; (18) f; (19) p; (20) s.

DISCERNING RIGHT AND WRONG

Romans 6:11-14 (*New International Version*)

1. Read *verse 11*. What does it mean to be dead to sin and alive to God?

2. Read *verse 12*. Show who is king in your heart, sin or Jesus? Write it in.

3. *Verse 13*. Name some parts of your body which may be instruments of righteousness.

4. Memorize *verse 14*. Substitute "my" and "I," for "your" and "you."

5. Write *verse 13* in your own words.

ALTERING ATTITUDES

Colossians 3:12-14

1. List the characteristics that should "clothe" a Christian (v. 12):

   a. _____

   b. _____

   c. _____

   d. _____

   e. _____

2. Read *verse 13* and discuss the theme "tolerance with limits."

3. What quality binds these graces together (v. 14)?

TAMING TEMPTATION

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

1. Read *verses 1-5* and review what happened to people who disobeyed God.

2. *Verses 6 and 11*. Why does God call it to our attention? _____

3. What four sins was Israel guilty of?

   v. 7 _____

   v. 8 _____

   v. 9 _____

   v. 10 _____

4. What does *verse 12* say about overconfidence in the face of temptation?

MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 1:22-25

1. Read *verse 22*. How do you purify yourself?

2. What does the phrase "love from the heart" mean to you?

3. According to *verse 23*, what prompts this love in a Christian? _____

4. What is eternal and provides a foundation to stand on?

PREPARING FOR EXAMS

Exam time is here! How do you feel about it? Are you ready? Some tests may be difficult and others will be easier for you. No matter what kind of test you have, you want to make a passing grade.

Here is a "Yes-No" exam for you. You may want to add a few other "do's" and "don'ts" for yourself to make testing time easier this time. Do you:

——— 1. Ask God to give you a clear mind to do your best?

——— 2. Spend many nights studying until midnight or later?

——— 3. Eat a hearty breakfast and take time to eat other nutritional food?

——— 4. Take time to exercise or do activities not related to lessons?

——— 5. Listen carefully to assignments from the very first day of classes?

——— 6. Complete more assignments than necessary?

——— 7. Ask your teacher or a classmate for an explanation if you do not understand the assignment?

——— 8. Study with someone by having them ask you questions?

——— 9. Keep fussing and worrying about how hard the test will be?

——— 10. Review all textbooks and outlines before the test?

——— 11. Plan a tricky way to share answers with a friend during the test?

——— 12. Watch for "always" and "never" or vague words in a true-false test?

——— 13. Check each answer in multiple-choice tests carefully, especially if they seem to be almost alike?

——— 14. Work math examples on scratch paper?

——— 15. Rely on your memory and not bother learning to spell the words needed for an essay or fill-in-the-blanks test?

——— 16. Read the entire test carefully?

——— 17. Become frightened if you see hard questions?

——— 18. Complete the easy questions first and allow as much time as possible for the harder ones?

——— 19. Avoid wild guessing? You may guess if your answer seems reasonable.

——— 20. Reread the exam when you have completed it to look for possible mistakes?

——— 21. Plan to brag about the good grade you will get when your paper will be returned? (If you are not successful, tell your friends it's none of their business.)

——— 22. Thank God for helping you to do as well as you did whether or not you have a perfect score?

BE THE QUARTERBACK,

Or How to Make Tough Decisions



by Bill Deckard

QUICK! NAME THE first five football players who come to your mind. Got your list? Chances are, most of the players you named are quarterbacks. Right?

That's because most people consider the quarterback the most important player on a football team. He is also usually the highest paid player. As the team's decision maker, his calls on plays can mean the difference between winning and losing.

Would you like to be a quarterback? If we compare life to a football game, we are all quarterbacks. Every day, we make decisions that could change the course of our life.

Here are five things a quarterback must keep in mind while making those quick decisions:

1. He must remember he *is* the quarterback. He is in charge. No one else can make his decisions for him.

2. He must play by the rules. And if the coach sends in a play

from the sidelines, he must abide by that decision.

3. He bases his decisions on one objective: getting the ball across the goal line.

4. As he makes his decisions, he remembers everything his coaches and teammates have taught him.

5. When a play doesn't go well, he must try to learn from it and get on with the next play.

* * * *

How good a quarterback are you? Let's take a look at the "game of life" and experiment with some hypothetical decision making.

Try this situation: It's third and 10, time is running out, and you've got to decide who to take to the school play . . . or who to go with. You're sitting in your room, staring at a piece of paper with two names on it. How will you decide?

1. Remember, you are the quarterback on this team. No one else can make your choice for you. And guess what? God has created you with the ability to make decisions. Therefore, all the decisions you make are important to Him, even this one concerning your date.

In Genesis 2:19, we read that after God created all the animals, "He brought them to the man [Adam] to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name" (*New International Version*). God respected Adam's decisions and He will respect yours. But note this: God will also hold you accountable for those decisions (see Romans 14:12).

Deciding whom to date this weekend is not the biggest decision you'll ever make. But it's still an important one to God.

A non-Christian might leave a decision like this to chance. He might flip a coin. Or let someone else decide *for* him. But as a Christian, you can make your own choices. Be your own quarterback. God wants you to.

2. So we have the ability to decide. How do we do it? The first step is to check the rule book. Has God made any rules concerning whom you should date? Well, maybe. Are both potential dates Christians? The Bible teaches clearly that a Christian must not *marry* a non-Christian (see 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-16). A date isn't exactly a



trip to the altar. But first dates sometimes lead to second and third dates, and even to marriage. And Scripture does tell us not to invite temptation (1 Corinthians 10:9).

Don't forget your coaches (your parents!). If you do plan a date with a non-Christian, your parents might decide to "send in a play from the sidelines." Just as a successful quarterback listens to directions from his coach, you should respect and obey "the plays" your folks call (see Ephesians 6:1, 2).

If Carol and Jane are both Christians, and both meet your parents' approval, you are free to call either one. When the quarterback follows the rules and respects his coaches, he has freedom to make decisions.

3. How do you choose? (That paper with two names on it is getting crumpled.) The quarterback makes his decisions with one objective in mind: the goal line. The Apostle Paul says, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14, *NIV*).

Paul's goal was eternal life—for himself and for as many others as he could bring along with him. That should be our goal too.

Non-Christian friends would tell you to go with the most gorgeous hunk, or the prettiest girl. But as Christians, we don't have to bounce through life from one pretty face to another. We want eternal life more than anything else, for ourselves, and for the persons we date!

One of your choices has the same goal you do. The other is real nice, but you're not sure about that crowd that's always hanging around. Better stick with the first choice for now.



Harold M. Lambert Studios, Inc. Photo

4. As the quarterback makes his decisions, he remembers what coaches and teammates have taught him. God promises wisdom to those who are steadfast in their faith: "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5, *NIV*).

If you lose sight of the goal, you'll get blown away by every situation. You will have a hard time making decisions. But God has promised wisdom to the faithful. Sometimes God's wisdom comes to us through our parents. Solomon advises, "Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble" (Proverbs 4:10-12, *NIV*).

We can never get enough godly advice—from parents, other adults, and friends. Solomon reminds us that "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed" (Proverbs 15:22, *NIV*). Keep a mental catalog of good advice you hear. Then, when those big decisions come, you can call for an "instant replay" and make a quick decision based on your data-bank of good advice.

And, of course, one of the best sources of wisdom is the Bible.

The kind of wisdom you *don't* need is the kind that comes from ungodly people. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in

God's sight" (1 Corinthians 3:19, *NIV*). A non-Christian might tell you to date the richest person, wear the latest styles, and spend all your college savings on a car. But such advice is pure foolishness to a Christian, whose goal is eternal life.

Some choices are black and white; God's will is obvious. At other times, the situation is hazy; this is when we need a "renewed mind."

The evening is late. You are at your date's house, watching a movie on TV. Your date is really enjoying it. But some of the words and actions on the screen make you feel uncomfortable. What should you do? The Bible doesn't say, "Thou shalt not watch TV."

If you spend time regularly with the Lord, letting Him "renew" your mind, your decision will be easy. Otherwise, you might just have to sit there feeling embarrassed.

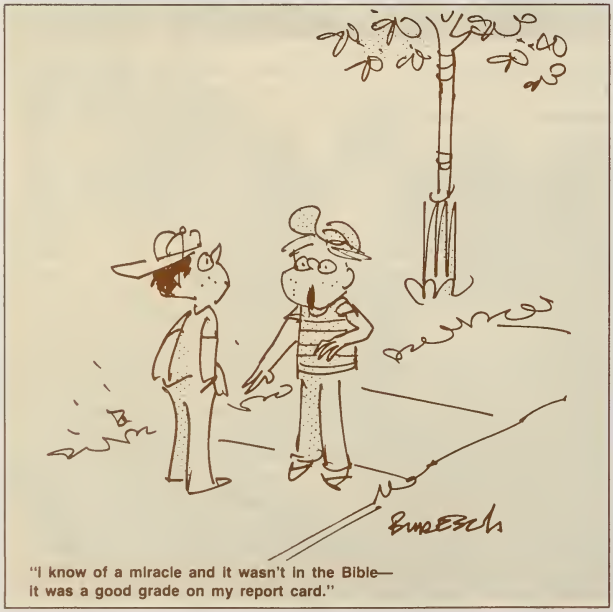
Some choices are black and white; God's will is obvious. At other times, the situation is hazy . . .

Then there are times when you don't really need any advice. If the choice is between buying a red car or a blue car, you might just want to dust off the ol' flippin' coin. But don't flip a coin to choose between two persons you want to date. They're much more important than that!

5. The quarterback is the decision-maker, the one who makes things happen. But what if he passes the ball and the intended receiver trips on his own shoelaces? Then the quarterback must quickly accept the situation and start planning his next play.

As you make your plans and decisions, you need to humbly say, with James, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that" (James 4:15, *NIV*). If it is the Lord's will, I will go to the play. But what if they both turn you down? In that case, you still have God's promise that, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, *NIV*).

One disaster doesn't mean the end of a quarterbacking career. If you have your eyes on the goal, you know *God* will eventually bring you to victory, even though you fumble now and then.



"I know of a miracle and it wasn't in the Bible—it was a good grade on my report card."

Let's review those guidelines once more:

1. Remember, God has equipped you to be the quarterback of your own life. You are the decision maker.

2. Don't forget the rule book. And listen to your coaches. They've been playing this game for a long time.

3. Keep your eyes on the goal—eternal life.

4. God wants to give you wisdom for those tough decisions. Read your Bible day and night, and seek the advice of godly people.

5. When you fumble a handoff, remember that God is still in control. "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." □



Can We Talk?

by Crane Delbert Bennett

Have you ever been called on by your youth leader or pastor to talk to a group of your peers? Have you felt that sudden panic at the thought of getting up in front of a group of people to make a speech?

Here are some guidelines that will help you fight the fear of falling on your face, or even worse, foaming at the mouth. You can make a creditable public speech or give a meaningful talk. Try it with confidence.

1. Make brief notes on what you want to say.

2. Don't write out your speech.

3. Don't memorize your speech.

4. Fill your speech with illustrations and examples. Make a brief note of each illustration—just enough to call it to your attention.

5. Know four times more about your subject than you will use in your talk.

6. Rehearse your speech by conversing with friends.

7. Forget everything but what you are saying when giving your talk.

8. Don't imitate anyone; be yourself.

9. Speak up loudly, clearly, and confidently.

10. Maintain eye contact with your audience.

Remember, a smile goes a long way in getting your listeners with you.

"Set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, *New International Version*). □



Brush Arbor, Boy Scout Tents House VBS









Summers on the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico are hot. The desert sun scorches the landscape, baking the vegetation, the native American hogans, and the persons who live there.

Summer is vacation time, too.



Children are not in school and it is an ideal time for personal evangelism.

Every June the Red Rock Church of God conducts a Vacation Bible School (VBS). Pastor Terry Goodin is also youth director for Southwest Indian Ministries.

VBS attendance this year reached an all-time high. The average daily attendance was 160. Pastor Goodin reports, "Our church building could not hold all of these classes so we built a big brush arbor outside and used boy scout tents for extra classrooms. No one complained; it was fun. Several have started coming to church regularly since then.

"Each day when we finished our classes, everyone would eat a balanced meal before going home."

A STEP team conducted VBS in several churches last summer. □

TEEN RETREAT

The Bell, California, Church of God teens recently enjoyed a successful three-day weekend retreat. The theme was Christian Dating. On the first night a young girl on drugs came in off the streets and gave her heart to the Lord.

Some of the Saturday activities included a film on Christian dating and a special speaker, Dave Cordero. He gave his

testimony of how God brought him back from the dead.

Special speaker for Saturday night and Sunday morning was the Reverend Waymon Miller, California director of youth and Christian education. Young people made commitments for Christ as the altars filled and the love of God flowed among all of us.

The retreat climaxed on Sunday at church. Brother Miller preached to us Sunday morning as we held a "Western Day." The morning service concluded with a picnic on the church grounds. The Sunday evening service featured a rally with the Aviles Family. They ministered to the youth and the altars were filled again.

God is blessing the teens at the Bell Church of God. ☐

—Nan Welch, reporter

URBANA 84 STUDENT MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

College students were confronted with the challenge of evangelizing the world's "unreached people" at a five-day missions conference held recently on the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana. A record number of 18,100 registered for Urbana 84, a triennial student missions conference.

Three-quarters of the earth's people "have never had the opportunity to say yes to Jesus Christ," stated conference director John Kyle in the opening keynote address. "That is why we are here."

Twenty Christian leaders, including Dr. Ralph Winter, Dr. Billy Graham, Dr. Luis Palau, Dr. Raymond Bakke, and Dr. Gordon MacDonald, delivered major addresses. The Reverend Eric J. Alexander of Glasgow, Scotland, delivered an hour-long biblical address to a packed assembly each morning.

Participants had the opportunity to attend 90 seminars which dealt with facets of world evangelization. Each delegate was assigned to a small group of six to ten people; the groups met for morning Bible study at 8 a.m., and for evening prayer and discussion at 10 p.m.

This year's conference was the 14th in the series conducted by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. ☐

CHOSEN GENERATION BURNS ROCK RECORDS

Chosen Generation is the name of the youth group from the Harvest Temple Church of God in Largo, Florida. Steve Rogers is youth pastor.

Recently Chosen Generation sponsored a youth crusade with evangelist Billy Mayo. God blessed and moved during the crusade and 88 young people committed or rededicated their lives to Christ. In addition, many were convicted of the satanic effects of secular rock music. They brought in hundreds of tapes and records.

Following the biblical precedent in Acts 19:19, Chosen Generation decided to burn these records and tapes.

A brief visit with the fire marshall convinced the group to crush the records in a machine and burn the album covers. A reporter from the *St. Petersburg Times* interviewed the youth minister and ran a story the next day on the proposed burning.

Harvest Temple received numerous unfriendly telephone calls. The proposed event drew a tremendous negative response from the secular rock stations in the area.

On the day of the burning, two camera crews came and filmed interviews with the youth minister and evangelist. That night five camera crews filmed the youth worship service prior to the burning. The crews represented Channel 8 (NBC), Channel 13 (CBS), Channel 10 (ABC), Channel 44 (CNN), and a NBC national news crew.

After the rally approximately 300 Christians and 200 protestors proceeded to crush the records and burn the covers, as well as T-shirts, jewelry, and so forth. The presence of the Holy Spirit was awesome as Christian youth witnessed to many of the protestors who came. Two who came to protest prayed the prayer of salvation.

NBC's *Today Show* carried an account of the event on their news segment and contacted evangelist Billy Mayo about appearing on the *Today Show*.

CNN News contacted youth pastor Steve Rogers about being on the program *Crossfire*. Chosen Generation has received mail from people around the country who saw the account in newspapers or on television. ☐



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Take Five

A Daily Devotion to Help You Make the Right Decisions by Bill Deckard

Principle #1: **God created you to be a decision maker.**

May 1—Psalm 8
May 2—Genesis 2:19
May 3—Deuteronomy 30:19
May 4—Joshua 24:14, 15
May 5—Romans 14:12

Principle #2: **As long as you obey God and your parents, you are free to make decisions.**

May 6—Ephesians 6:1, 2
May 7—Colossians 3:20
May 8—Proverbs 4:11, 12
May 9—Psalm 119:45

Principle # 3: **Make your decisions with your eyes on the goal.**

May 10—Philippians 3:14
May 11—Proverbs 3:5, 6
May 12—Matthew 5:8
May 13—Matthew 6:31-33
May 14—Matthew 13:45
May 15—Luke 9:62

Principle #4: **God will give the wisdom you need to make decisions.**

May 16—James 1:5-8
May 17—Proverbs 4
May 18—Isaiah 48:17
May 19—Proverbs 6:20-23
May 20—John 16:13
May 21—Proverbs 15:22
May 22—1 Corinthians 3:18, 19
May 23—Romans 12:2
May 24—Psalm 16:7
May 25—Psalm 25:8, 9
May 26—Psalm 32:8-10
May 27—Proverbs 14:12
May 28—Deuteronomy 6:6-9
May 29—Psalm 1

Principle #5: **Even if you fumble a play, God is in control.**

May 30—James 4:13-15
May 31—Romans 8:28 □

Youth Leaders Only

The *Lighted Pathway* is your companion for personal growth and encouragement. It is also designed as a supplement for you to use in your weekly youth meetings. Here is how you can use this issue.

WEEK 1:

The issue: Evils of alcohol

Resource: "Drinking Is No Fun," p. 3

WEEK 2:

The issue: Personal Ministry

Resource: "Sharing Your Home With an Older Relative," p. 10

WEEK 3:

The issue: Decision-Making

Resource: "Making Biblical Decisions," p. 13
"Preparing for Exams," p. 16

WEEK 4:

The issue: Choosing

Resource: "Be the Quarterback," p. 17
"Can We Talk?" p. 21

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When a Parent Drinks

by Marcus V. Hand

A 37-seven-year-old man checks into the emergency room of a hospital with severe abdominal pain. Surgery reveals inflammation of the pancreas caused by alcohol. He hovers between life and death, kept alive only by intravenous feeding.

A young woman shows up at the hospital the same weekend. She has been battered by a drunken husband. She will have scars for the rest of her life.

These incidents are just two of the many which happen daily as a result of alcohol. Every day doctors and emergency room workers see broken necks, battered children, stabbings, gun shot wounds, burns, and destroyed bodies and minds, all results of alcohol.

Alcohol is a mind-altering drug. It is a highly dangerous sedative that ruins the lives of countless victims. The National Council on Alcoholism says there are 90 million Americans who drink and an estimated nine million alcoholics in this country. Many teenagers live in homes where one or both parents either drink or are alcoholics. You may be one of these young people. Perhaps you've never been physically abused; each situation is different. However you have a parent who drinks.

How can you tell if he or she is an alcoholic? Several organizations hand out a list of questions to ask your friend or relative whom you suspect might be an alcoholic. Does he or she . . .

- ever use alcohol to calm the nerves, to relax or to go to sleep?
- drink after a quarrel, a disappointment, or a frustrating situation?
- always have a "good reason" for drinking?
- minimize or deny drinking when talking to others?
- hide bottles, cans, or conceal drinking from family and friends?
- wish friends or family would not express concern about drinking?
- try to quit drinking and fail?
- ever drink more than he or she intends?
- ever suffer loss of memory about things which happened when drinking?
- ever feel guilty about drinking and regret things said or done while drinking?
- ever miss work or school because of drinking?
- eat little or irregularly when drinking?
- ever injure self or someone else after drinking?
- ever take a drink in the morning in order to get the day started off?
- have trouble at home related to drinking?

If three or more of these questions apply to a person who drinks, he or she should seek help. Here are some organizations which may be able to provide assistance:

1. The National Council on Alcoholism
   733 Third Avenue
   New York, NY 10017
   (212) 986-4433

2. National Clearing House
   for Alcohol Information
   P.O. Box 2345
   Rockville, MD 20852
   (301) 468-2600
3. Alcoholics Anonymous
   P.O. Box 459
   Grand Central Station
   New York, NY 10163
   (212) 686-1100
4. Al-Anon Family Group
   Headquarters
   One Park Avenue
   New York, NY 10016
   (212) 481-6565

The best help, of course, is God. Not only will He help the one who drinks, He will also help you if you have a drinking parent. Here are some guidelines to follow in receiving God's help:

First, be sure you have a clear conscience toward your parent who drinks. When you are embarrassed and hurt over and over again, it is easy to become bitter. Better than anyone else you understand that repeated hurts turn sadness into disgust and resentment. As these feelings grow, they develop into bitterness. Bitterness is love that is turned to hate.

The Bible says in Ephesians 4:31, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger" (*New International Version*).

Again, "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile" (Hebrews 12:14, 15, *NIV*).

If you have been guilty of bitterness, confess it to God first. This is the only way to cleanse your conscience in the sight of God.

Second, continue to pray for your parent who drinks. You may be the primary intercessor, the most important person between your parent's salvation and eternity. God wants your parent to be saved as much as He wanted you to receive Him. Although you may become discouraged at times, never give up hope. Continue to pray. Exercise faith. Do everything you can to create and maintain peace in your home.

Honor your parents, even if they drink. Some have the mistaken idea that when a parent has a drinking problem he or she is not due honor from the child. This is not true.

Honoring includes obedience but it is more than that. To honor your parents is to have a basic attitude of respect. Don't withhold honor from your parents because they sin. Develop respect by praying with a clear conscience.

Forgive your parent who drinks. Jesus said in Matthew 6:15, "But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (*NIV*). Even when they do not ask you to forgive them, you must forgive anyway.

To forgive is not to condone the wrong. And forgiveness is not necessarily fair. Was it fair when God forgave you? Yet, for Christ's sake God forgave. Likewise, we must forgive if we are to have a right relationship with God.

Finally, you can share your burdens with a caring Christian counselor or mentor. Don't try to carry the load alone. Sometimes you need more than prayer. You need someone to talk to. You need the reassurance of a caring friend.

Your youth leader and your pastor care more than you know. You are not infringing on their time or their responsibilities when you ask them for help. They will help you. And they will assist you in plugging into a support group that will minister to you.

You will learn that as you cleanse your conscience of bitterness, continue to pray, honor your parents and forgive them for any hurt or disappointment their drinking may have caused you, you will find that Christ will liberate you in ways you have not known before.

Living with a parent who drinks is difficult. Yet God will use you to shine the light of the gospel into the lives of others. □



MARCUS V. HAND, Editor

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SET II

"Witnessing to the Cults" is a two two-hour set of full-color video tapes. They not only tell what the cultic groups believe, but they also give Scriptures that will strengthen you in your Christian faith. Lectures include: Tricks of the Cultists, Jehovah's Witnesses—The Real Truth, Amazing Facts About Mormonism, Seventh-Day Adventism. **Free** with this set you get the booklet, "What Every Layman Should Know in Order to Deal With the Cults."

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BEVERLY'S MIRACLE



This March of Dimes poster girl went to summer camp unaware of a divine appointment with God. . . .

by Charles Fischer,

State Director in Washington

BEVERLY'S MIRACLE occurred Thursday night at camp!

Every year thousands of young people attend Church of God youth camps. There will be a camp near you this summer. Miracles are not uncommon, especially in the evening services where many



"I noticed her braces were off and she was walking . . ."

accept Jesus as Lord of their lives.

Some, however, attract our attention more than others. The miracle of Beverly Cox, a thirteen-year-old from Washougal, Washington, definitely gets our attention!

Beverly was born with both hips dislocated and with club feet. She had no muscles in the fronts of her legs. Her lower legs were so twisted they had to be surgically rotated to make them point straight ahead.

* * * * *

At four months, doctors used traction to try to slip her hips into place. Only one hip responded. This was the first of 13 surgeries during the first nine years of her life!

Through it all, Beverly persevered. In 1980 she was the March of Dimes poster child for Clark County, Washington. By the time she had turned thirteen, surgeries had helped a great deal.

Still, she had to wear expensive leg braces. The braces were spring loaded at the ankles so that her toes would come up when she walked. Her stainless steel shoes weighed five pounds each. All of this was necessary because of the lack of muscles in her lower legs.

This was before Beverly's miracle, however.

* * * * *

Last summer Beverly decided to come to Teen Camp. I knew this was to be an unusual camp because of several things that had already happened. We had seen a miracle involving our camp facilities. A second miracle involved the financing of the camp. The number of persons who registered, despite some unusual circumstances, was a minor miracle in itself.

Miracles, however, were just beginning.

Beverly, registering with her twin sister Brenda and her brother Tim, entered camp activities with enthusiasm.

Every evening service was meaningful. This particular Thursday night was the greatest of all. Just before the speaker was to come with the message, a camper sang, "Jesus, Be the Lord of All." At the close of the song, a message in tongues given by the Holy Spirit was interpreted. The Spirit challenged the young people to fall on their faces in submission to the Lord. Every camper responded.

In the midst of this response was Beverly Cox!

Her brother and sister joined other campers as they all began praying with Beverly. In a few moments I noticed that her braces were

"Your miracle will be the touch of God that you need . . ."

off and she was walking all over the chapel. Beverly describes what happened:

"That Thursday night was wonderful. I felt a peace in my heart and no pain in my legs. My legs had been so sore when I went into the chapel; but when I walked out I felt as if I could walk forever. I felt closer to my brother and sister than ever before. It was a great week of camp."

When Beverly got home from camp she went to see her doctor. He told her there were muscles in her legs that were not there before. All she has to do now is exercise her legs and before long she will be able to walk without the aid of braces, or even crutches!

Miracles can happen at youth camp! Yours may not be a physical healing. Others may not even think it very important. But for you, it will be the touch of God that you need.

Why not try youth camp near you and see what God will do in your life? □



YOUTH LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Charles Fischer, *Washington State Youth and Christian Education Director*

Birthplace: Dallas, TX

Home: Yakima, WA

Wife's name: Alice

Child's name: Lauryn

Favorite snack food: M & M's

Favorite sport: Football

Best advice you ever received: Be yourself, the person *God* wants you to be

Worst advice: Don't go to college

Close friends say you are: Intense

One thing you would change if you could: The wave in my hair

Favorite song: Amazing Grace

Favorite scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Most important lesson you have learned: Keep Jesus *first* in everything I do

Your greatest joy in youth ministry is: Seeing young people grow in Christ

Knowing what you know now, if you were a teenager you would: Develop a consistent daily devotional life □

Attend a CHURCH OF G



DATE	CAMP	AGES	LOCATION	GUESTS
June 7-9	Florida Singles Camp	18-up	Wimauma	Randy Weeks, Molly Cox, Al Ma
June 10-14	Indiana Teen Camp	15-18	Camp Riverdale	Dennis McGuire
	Dakotas Indian Camp	7-19	Camp Wisagoma	Darrell Elliott
	S. Ohio Jr. Camp	11-12	Lexington, KY	Dan Dempsey
	South Carolina Peacemakers	13-17	Mauldin	Bob Scroggins
	South Carolina Peacemakers	12-17	Pee Dee	Eddie King
	Tennessee Sr. Teens	14-19	Signal Mountain	Jim Bolin
June 17-21	Arizona Jr. Camp	7-12	Prescott, Emanuel Pines	Tom & Roberta Bruce
	N. Georgia Sr. Peacemakers	15-19	Doraville	Quan Miller
	Indiana Jr. Camp	7-10	Mitchell	James Leslie
	Minnesota Shepards Inn	7-12	Finlandson	Rick Mann
	N. New England Peacemakers	13-19	Hinckley, ME	Steadfast (ECBC)
	New Mexico Jr. Camp	7-12	Sacramento Mt. Retreat	WCCC
	Dakotas Jr. Camp	7-12	Camp Wisogoma	Pat Bishop
	Pennsylvania Peacemakers	15-19	Somerset	Richard Dial
	South Carolina Peace Cadets	10-12	Mauldin	Al & Val Mathura
	South Carolina Peace Cadets	7-11	Pee Dee	Mary Wynn
June 24-28	Alabama Sr. Camp	15-19	Springville	Franklin Brothers
	Arizona Sr. Camp	13-18	Prescott, Emanuel Pines	Waymon Miller
	Arkansas Sr. Camp	15-19	Pathway Campground	Bill Leonard
	N. Georgia Peacemakers	13-14	Doraville	Tim Brown
	S. Georgia Sr. Camp	14-18	Tifton	Sammy Oxendine & Covenant (ECBC)
	Illinois	16-19	Benton	Jim Layne, Ted Gee
	Minnesota Shepards Inn	13-19	Finlandson	Mark DeLap & Band
	Mississippi Peacemakers	15-19	Jackson	Tim Hill
	N. New England Peace Cadets	6-12	Hinckley, ME	Larry & Rhonda Hudson
	New Mexico Sr. Camp	13-19	Sacramento Mt. Retreat	Calloway Davis
	E. North Carolina Day Camp	8-14	Pembroke	
	Dakotas Sr. Camp	13-19	Camp Wisagoma	Jim Chambers
	S. Ohio Primary Camp	7-10	Lexington, KY	Jack McIntosh
	South Carolina Peacefinders	7- 9	Mauldin	Hack & Sally Farley
July 1-5	Kentucky Teen Camp	16-19	Lexington, KY	Danny Murray & Harvest (LC)
	Delmarva-DC Sr. Camp	15-19	Simpsonville, Maryland	Roger Childers
	Indiana Middle Camp	11-14	TBA	Terry Harris
	Mississippi Peacemakers	13-14	Jackson	Richard Dial
	S. Ohio Sr. Camp	15-19	Lexington, KY	Danny Murray & Harvest (LC)
	Tennessee Young Teen Camp	12-13	Signal Mountain	Ron Wood
	Washington Teen Camp	13-19	Mayfield Lake	Allen McCray

YOUTH CAMP Near You!

DATE	CAMP	AGES	LOCATION	GUESTS
July 8-12	Alabama Young Teen Camp	12-14	Springville	Jerry Rice
	Arkansas Peacefinders	7- 9	Pathway Campground	David Stone
	Florida Peacemakers	13-17	Wimauma	Sammy Oxendine & Covenant (ECBC)
	S. Georgia Young Teen Camp	12-13	Tifton	Ronnie Luke
	Illinois Peacemaker II	13-15	Benton	Michael Coleman
	KY Young Teen Camp	13-15	Lexington	Doug LeRoy
	Delmarva-DC Intermediate Camp	12-14	Simpsonville, Maryland	Keith Iverster
	Mississippi Peace Cadet	11-12	Jackson	Kathy Sanders
	S. Ohio Young Teen Camp	13-14	Lexington, KY	Doug LeRoy
	Tennessee Middle Camp	10-11	Signal Mountain	Jack Bentley
July 15-19	Alabama Jr. High Camp	10-11	Springville	Gail Bristow
	Arkansas Peace Cadets	10-12	Pathway Campground	Danny & Elaine Henderson
	S. California Jr. Camp	7-12	Camp Maranatha	Doug Anderson
	Florida Peace Cadets	9-12	Wimauma	Buck & Barb Dockery
	Cocoa, Florida Camp	8-17	Rockledge	Alec Richardson
	N. Georgia Peace Cadet I	11-12	Doraville	Lance Colkmire
	S. Georgia Pre-Teen	10-11	Tifton	David Ebel
	Illinois Peace Cadet	10-11	Benton	Terry & Louise Beaver
	KY Intermediate Camp	10-12	Lexington	Ron Scott
	Delmarva-DC Pre-Teen Camp	10-11	Simpsonville, Maryland	Mike Coleman
	Mississippi Peacefinders	8-10	Jackson	Kathy Hamon
	E. North Carolina Peacemakers	13-19	Kenly	Sammy Oxendine & Covenant (ECBC)
	Pennsylvania Peace Cadets	12-14	Somerset	Judy Isaacs & Co.
	Tennessee Jr. Camp	7- 9	Signal Mountain	Stoney Abercrombie
	West Virginia Sr. Camp	14-19	Camp Virgil Tate	Ritchie & Jentzen Franklin
July 22-26	N. Alabama Jr. Camp	7- 9	Springville	TBA
	S. Alabama Jr. Camp	7- 9	Elberta	TBA
	Arkansas Peacemakers	13-14	Pathway Campground	Ron Scott
	N. California Jr. Camp	7-12	Camp Oakhurst	Doug Anderson
	Florida Peacefinders	7- 9	Wimauma	David Ebel
	N. Georgia Peace Cadets II	9-10	Doraville	Kathy Hamon
	S. Georgia Mini Camp	7- 9	Tifton	Kathy Sanders
	Illinois Peacefinders	7- 9	Benton	Kevin Grissom
	Kentucky Jr. Camp	7- 9	Lexington	Katy & Bernie Watson
	Delmarva-DC Jr. Camp	7- 9	Simpsonville, Maryland	Sandra Miller
	S. New England Jr. Camp	7-12	Coventry, RI	Charles Shehorn
	E. North Carolina Peace Cadets	7-12	Kenly	Miss Judy & Friends
	Pennsylvania Peacefinders	8-11	Somerset	Wilbur & Grace Thrush
	W. Tennessee Jr. Camp	7-11	Jackson	Steve & Calysta Gerhart
	Washington Intermediate Camp	10-12	Clear Lake	Vaughn Matthews
	West Virginia Intermediate Camp	11-13	Camp Virgil Tate	Lance Colkmire
July 29-August 3	California Sr. Camp	13-18	Camp Oakhurst	Richard Dial
	N. Georgia Peacefinders	7- 8	Doraville	Sheldon Boggs
	S. New England Teen Camp	13-19	Coventry, RI	Joe McCoy
	Washington Jr. Camp	7- 9	Clear Lake	Brenda Livingston
	West Virginia Jr. Camp	8-10	Camp Virgil Tate	Marty Capitano
	French-Canadian Camp	7-19	Quebec	TBA
August 12-16	NW Florida Camp	7-17	Assembly of God Campground	Tony Weaver
	Eastern Canada Sr. Camp	13-19	Stayner, Ontario	TBA
	Northeast Spanish Children & Youth Camp	5-15	Wecosville, PA	Antonio Garcia
August 19-23	California Wilderness Camp	12-17	Yosemite	Youth Board
August 26-31	Northeast Spanish Young Adult & Couples Camp	15-35	Wecosville, PA	Abimael Velaqueg

Shadows

by Julie New Wheeler



THAT ISAAC WOMACK has nerve coming to our yard sale," Amie grumbled. "What if he steals something?"

She glared in his direction as she stapled bags of popcorn.

"Yeah," I answered. "Better keep an eye on the money. They say he has *very* sticky fingers."

Sampling a stray piece of popcorn, I glanced at Isaac. Shaggy hair drooped over his gleaming sunglasses as long fingers raked through a box of wrenches.

Three Sundays ago Isaac had showed up for Sunday school. I don't know who invited him. The teacher introduced him as "a new brother in the Lord."

I remember Amie making a face. "Trying to impress his parole officer," she whispered.

Greg and Amie learn some important lessons about jumping to conclusions . . . and about forgiveness . . .

Other young people must have agreed. I don't think anyone talked to him except the teacher.

"Drink! Gina wants drink!" A shrill voice interrupted my thoughts. A curly-headed tot tugged at a man's pants leg. Amie nudged me and I poured a cup of lemonade. Gina's father dug in his pocket for change while Gina stretched to reach the popcorn.

I laughed as Amie moved the popcorn bags. Gina lost interest and moved to a nearby table of used toys. Her father took the lemonade and followed her.

* * * *

THE QUARTERS made a clinking sound as I stooped down and dropped them in the money box. Actually, it was not a box; it was Amie's old sewing basket. It looked silly wedged between the ice chest and bags of bake sale supplies.

Amie bent down beside me. "How much money have we raised?"

I did some quick counting. "Close to fifty dollars so far," I boasted.

"Fifty dollars!" Amie exclaimed. "We'll have a big missions offering this month."

A shadow crossed my hand as I closed the lid. We stood up quickly and Isaac was leaning over the refreshment table.

"You guys need help?" Isaac asked, smiling. "Can I set up tables or something?"

Amie spoke up sharply. "No thanks, Isaac. You're too late. Greg and I are managing just fine."

Isaac's smile faded. "Thought I'd ask," he mumbled as he walked away.

"I hope he didn't see us counting the money," Amie said.

"Yeah," I added. "I heard he once spent six months in jail for stealing."

* * * *

SOON, I FORGOT about Isaac. Amie and I were so busy that we used our pockets to hold the money as people bought stuff.

We did, that is, until a lady needed change from a twenty dollar bill. Amie and I added up our pocket money, but we were still short by a few dollars.

"Don't worry about it," the lady said when I bent down to get more money. "It's a donation." I didn't argue.

Reaching for the basket, my fingers felt only grass and the coolness of the ice chest.

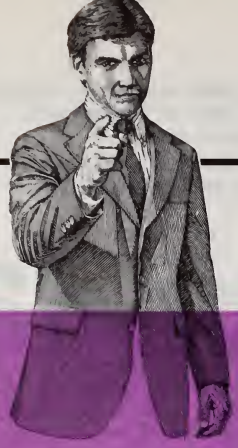
"Amie," I said quietly, "did you move the basket?"

"No," she snapped. "Isn't it between the sacks and ice chest?"

I shook my head. We rummaged through the bags. No basket. Amie even checked the ice chest.

After five minutes of searching, Amie said, "Greg, it's no use. The money's been stolen. And it's time for Brad and Jana to take over." She looked like she would cry any minute.

I didn't know what to say, so I pretended to straighten the table. I surveyed the lawn for suspects. Familar faces accounted for most of the crowd. Church members, kids



"I thought you church people believed in forgiveness. Man, was I wrong."

from the youth group, Gina's father—all chatted noisily over the sound of slamming car doors. Then I saw him.

A solitary figure stood at the edge of the lawn. Isaac was fingering a guitar that had "$5.00" taped across the side.

"Isaac's still here," I whispered.

Amie whirled around. "That thief! He's the one who stole the money. The hypocrite." She paused, breathless with anger. "Well, he won't get away with it!"

I watched, dumbfounded, as she marched over to Isaac. By the time I caught up with her, she was accusing him.

"Where's the money?" Amie demanded.

Isaac laughed nervously. "What are you talking about?"

Amie's voice rose. "Don't act innocent. The yard sale money."

Isaac laid down the guitar. "Me? I didn't take any money. You've got to be kidding."

"You saw us counting the money," I interrupted.

Isaac was silent. A hushed crowd had encircled the three of us. They waited expectantly.

Isaac looked me in the eye. "I thought you church people believed in forgiveness. Man, was I wrong." He turned and stalked angrily past the bystanders.

"Call the police!" several people suggested.

"That Womack boy thought he'd fooled us by coming to church. But I saw him for what he was," someone confided in Amie and me.

* * * *

WE DIDN'T HAVE time to reply. Gina's father rushed up to us. "Have you seen Gina? She disappeared about fifteen minutes ago, and I can't find her."

A curly head peeked from under the tablecloth of the toy table.

"Gina! Come here," her father commanded.

The little girl crawled out, dragging something behind her. "Pocketnook. Pocketnook," Gina informed us.

"Let me see your pocketbook," Amie said in a strange voice.

Gina obeyed reluctantly. Amie and I didn't look at each other. Gina's pocketbook was the money basket.

"Thank you," Amie said, taking the basket. Quietly, we counted the money. All fifty dollars was there. Somehow, it didn't matter. I'd have paid that much money from my savings if Amie and I could erase the scene with Isaac.

"There's Brad and Jana," I said, as they walked towards us.

"Shame about the money getting stolen," Brad began.

"We found it," I interrupted. I handed him the basket.

Jana looked puzzled. "Somebody said Isaac took it."

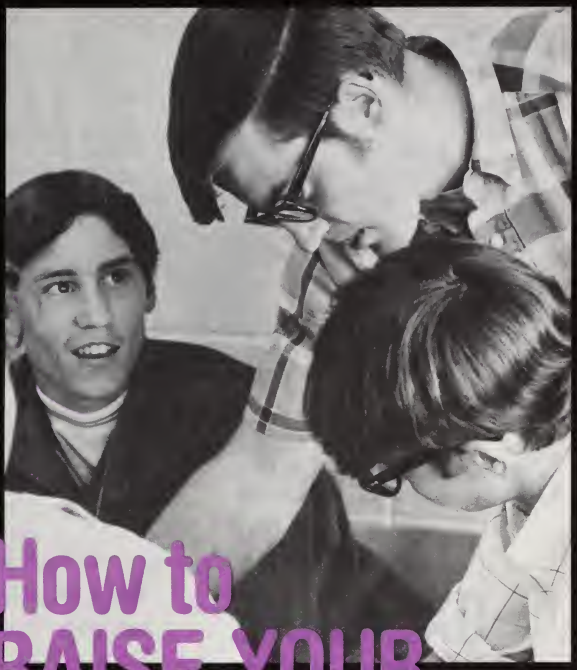
"I'll tell you about it later," Amie said, waving. "We've got to run."

Amie and I walked away, our shadows following closely. We were silent until we reached the car. Amie's tear-filled eyes met mine.

"Why don't we try to find Isaac," I suggested, cautiously.

Amie nodded, a tear on her cheek glistening in the sunlight.

"I hope he believes in forgiveness," she said. □



How to RAISE YOUR PARENTS

1. *Don't be afraid to speak their language.* Try to use strange sounding phrases like, "I'll help you with the dishes," and "I think I'll clean up my room."
2. *Try to understand their music.* Play Andy Williams' "Moon River" on the stereo until you are accustomed to the sound.
3. *Be patient with the underachiever.* When you catch your dieting mom sneaking salted peanuts, do not show your disapproval; tell her you like fat mothers.
4. *Encourage your parents to talk about their problems.* Try to keep in mind that to them things like earning a living and paying off the mortgage seem important.
5. *Be tolerant of their appearance.* When your dad gets a haircut, don't feel personally humiliated. Remember, it is important for him to look like his peers.
6. *Most important:* if they do something you consider wrong, let them know it is their behavior you dislike, not themselves!

Obviously, the key is understanding—and LOVE. □

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS (from page 16)

ACROSS:

1. Abel
6. dove
15. Cain
19. fire
26. goat
35. Jacob
43. love
51. Orpah
56. queen
71. wine
78. Titus
84. Exodus

DOWN:

2. Boaz
9. Eli
11. calf
13. Herod
30. idol
32. nail
34. Kish
40. Peter
47. manna
52. Rome
66. salt
67. veil
77. yoke
81. Ur
84. Ezra

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Bulletin Board



See and Hear SAMMY OXENDINE AND COVENANT

May 30-June 4:	Ministry to the Military in England
June 17-21:	Virginia Teen Camp—Roanoke
June 25-28:	South Georgia Teen Camp—Tifton
July 1-6:	Western North Carolina Camp Meeting South Carolina Camp Meeting — Mauldin Virginia Camp Meeting — Roanoke
July 8-12:	Florida Teen Camp—Wimauma
July 15-19:	Eastern North Carolina Teen Camp—Kenly
July 22-26:	Bible and Music Institute—East Coast Bible College
August 19-23:	Northern Ohio Teen Camp

NORTH GEORGIA

June 22—

Event: *Concert with Al Holley*

Place: Doraville Church of God
3100 Oak Cliff Road
Doraville, GA 30340

Time: 7 p.m.

Sponsor: Atlanta Area Singles Fellowship
For information, call
(404) 448-9300

June 29—

Event: *North Georgia All-State Youth Choir Rehearsal*

Place: Marietta Church of God
1083 Allgood Road
Marietta, GA 30060

Time: 1 p.m.

Sponsor: North Georgia Youth and Christian Education Office
For information, call
(404) 448-9300

Event: *Concert With Sevenfold of Broken Heart Ministries*

Place: Marietta Church of God
1083 Allgood Road
Marietta, GA 30060

Time: 5 p.m.

Sponsor: North Georgia Youth and Christian Education Office
For information, call
(404) 448-9300 □

"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

Youth Ministry Checkup



Q. What happens to a banana when it gets away from the bunch?

A. It gets peeled.

Like bananas, Christian young people grow better in groups. Individuals often find themselves lonely and vulnerable. Fellowship with others provides nourishment, strength, and a source of encouragement. You seldom see a Christian growing well alone, when the opportunity to be with others exists.

"Two are better than one,
because they have a good
return for their work:
If one falls down,
his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him
up!
Though one may be overpowered,
Two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not
quickly broken"
(Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10, 12; *New International Version*).

Since a primary source of your spiritual strength flows from others, the health of your church's youth group must remain a priority.

What makes a youth group grow? Some youth ministries seem to explode. They have a certain chemistry. They seem to have a secret ingredient that attracts kids by the score. Others limp along, struggling to "keep what we've got; we sure don't want to lose our young people!"

What is the difference?

Easy answers turn us off. Yet, we know that successful youth groups always possess certain characteristics. Things like effective leadership, quality programming, organization, enthusiasm, excitement—these ingredients seem to reside in abundance in all growing youth groups. But how do you get them? How do you generate enthusiasm? How do you develop dynamic leadership? What about programming and organization?

Lighted Pathway will address these and related issues during the next few months. Extremely gifted and capable youth leaders will share ideas and tell us what makes youth ministry work for them. A vital part of this series focuses on developing leadership in the group, among the youth.

Evaluation is the first step. Where are you now? Use the diagnostic tool on the next two pages and check your youth group.

You're the Do



Youth ministry in any church should be guided by at least six principles, according to *Upward Bound Handbook for Youth Group Ministry.* These principles are:

#1—Young people have special needs and require specialized ministry.

#2—Youth ministry cannot exist apart from the local church. The mission of youth ministry and the church are the same.

#3—Youth ministry provides an opportunity for spiritually gifted leaders to relate to individual young people and disciple them in Christ.

#4—Youth ministry communicates the gospel to young people through instruction and involvement in a community of faith.

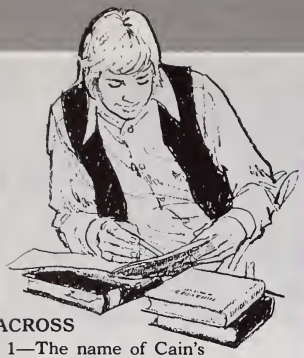
#5—Youth ministry embraces not only the young people of the church, but the youth of the community as well.

#6—Youth ministry works in partnership with the home, God's appointed authority in the life of the young person.

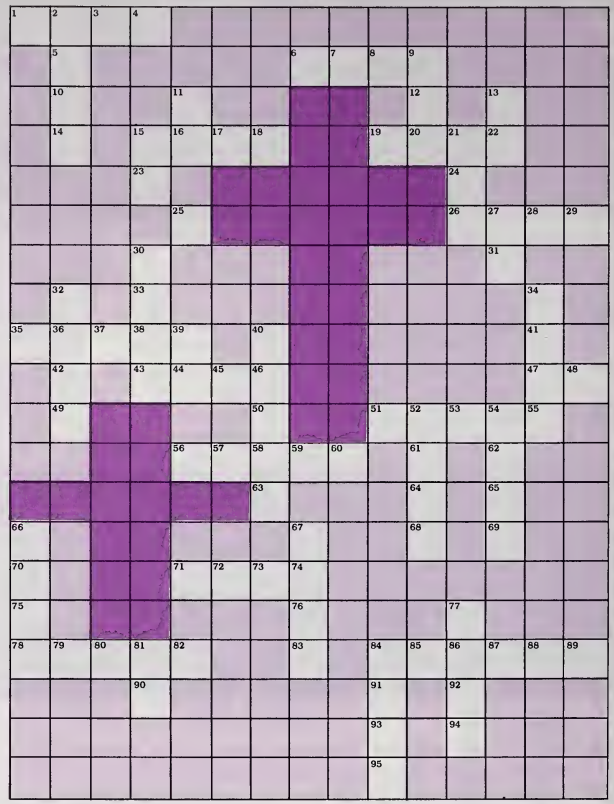
With these principles in mind, you are urged to evaluate the youth ministry in your church. Use the checkup below to determine where your youth ministry stands.

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE . . .	Always	Often	Occasionally	Never
1. Our church has a youth committee or board that meets regularly to oversee and plan youth ministry.				
2. Our church has someone designated as youth leader, who is responsible for the general oversight of youth ministry.				
3. Our church evaluates the needs of individual young persons.				
4. Our church evaluates the group needs of our young people.				
5. Our church provides activities which meet the social needs of our young people.				
6. Our church provides activities which involve young people in ministry.				
7. Our church provides activities which meet the spiritual needs of our young people.				
8. Youth ministry plans are made at least six months in advance.				
9. Our church considers youth ministry a priority and provides for it in the church budget.				
10. The people who work with youth receive training in their specialized field.				
11. Our young people regularly attend church services, not just youth events.				
12. Our young people feel a part of the overall church program.				

	Always	Often	Occasionally	Never
13. Our young people are involved in the regular services of the church in a visible way.				
14. A priority of our youth ministry is to disciple young people for Christ.				
15. Our youth ministry encourages and teaches young people to establish a time of personal Bible study and prayer.				
16. Our church youth ministry is not just meetings, but also has "one-on-one times" between adults and teens.				
17. Our church youth ministry is not a one-man show. There are many adults involved who have opportunities to disciple young people.				
18. Our church provides at least one overnight outing a year (retreat, lock-in, so forth) that gives adult leaders an opportunity to get to know young people on a personal level.				
19. Our youth ministry is systematically teaching our young people the Word of God.				
20. Our young people feel they are a "youth group." They belong to each other and are committed to the group.				
21. Our young people feel ownership of the youth group. It is not an adults' ministry, but their ministry.				
22. Young people are involved as youth ministry leaders.				
23. Our youth ministry has a strategy to reach out to nonchurch young people.				
24. Young people who are occasional attenders are systematically followed up and encouraged to get involved.				
25. Certain events through the year are planned for the purpose of reaching new young people.				
26. Our young people have been taught how to share their faith and are encouraged to be witnesses on their school campuses.				
27. Our youth ministry leadership is visible on the local school campuses by visiting the school and attending extracurricular activities.				
28. Our youth ministry keeps the parents of teens well informed about coming events.				
29. Our youth ministry conducts periodic sharing times between parents and youth ministry leadership.				
30. Selected parents are a part of the youth ministry leadership team.				
31. Our youth ministry is involved in equipping parents for their ministry in the home.				
32. Our youth ministry works with young people to establish relationships between them and their parents.				



BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1—The name of Cain's brother (Genesis 4:2).

6—Noah released one of these from the ark (Genesis 8:8).

15—The name of the first murderer in the Bible (Genesis 4:8).

19—What Elijah asked God to send on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:38).

26—God separates this from the sheep (Leviticus 22:27).

35—God changed his name to Israel (Genesis 32:28).

43—What Jesus instructs His followers to do (Luke 6:27).

51—She married one of Naomi's sons (Ruth 1:4).

56—This is what Esther became (Esther 2:17).

71—Jesus changed water into _____ (John 2:1-10).

78—A short book of the New Testament written by Paul to a particular person.

84—The second book of the Bible.

_____

DOWN:

2—The second man Ruth married (Ruth 4:9).

9—The high priest who trained Samuel (1 Samuel 1:25).

11—Aaron made one of gold (Exodus 32:4).

13—The man who was king when Jesus was born (Matthew 2:1).

30—What the gods of the nations were called (Psalm 96:5).

32—What they put through Jesus' hands at the cross (John 20:25-27).

34—The father of Saul (1 Samuel 9:3).

40—His name had been Simon (Matthew 4:18).

47—What the Israelites ate in the wilderness (Exodus 16:35).

52—Where Paul hoped to go (Romans 1:7).

66—Lot's wife became a pillar of _____ (Genesis 19:26).

67—This tore in the temple at Jesus' death (Matthew 27:51).

77—Use this to harness a team of oxen (Jeremiah 31:18).

81—Abram lived here first (Genesis 11:28).

84—The name of an Old Testament book and a prophet.

(ANSWERS on p. 11)

BECOME A YOUTH MINISTRY CONSULTANT

Lighted Pathway is looking for a network of persons with youth ministry experience to become a group of volunteer "consultants." These consultants will help us develop, search, and evaluate ideas from time to time. You will be asked to give us your thoughts and opinions on various youth ministry topics and issues.

If you would like to become a *Lighted Pathway* youth ministry consultant, please complete this survey.

1. Please rank the following areas in terms of your greatest need for help and encouragement. "1" is the area of greatest need and so on.

   High school ministry _____
   Children's ministry _____
   Music ministry _____
   Junior high ministry _____
   Training volunteers _____
   Other _____

2. Of the top two areas you just listed, what types of services or products would be most helpful to you?

   Your top area of need? _____

3. Think about other people you know in youth ministry. What would you say are their two greatest areas of need? _____

   _____

4. What are your areas of responsibility? (Check those that apply.)

   High school ministry _____
   Children's ministry _____
   Single adult ministry _____
   Music ministry _____
   Junior high ministry _____
   Training volunteers _____
   Other _____

If you are interested in serving as a consultant, in which of the following areas would you like to serve? (Check those that apply.)

High school ministry _____
Children's ministry _____
Single adult ministry _____
Music ministry _____
Junior high ministry _____
Training volunteers _____
Other _____

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR CHURCH'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: ( ) _____

Send this page or a photocopy to:

Lighted Pathway Consultants
1080 Montgomery Avenue
Cleveland, TN 37311

Does God have a specific plan, or perhaps a chosen vocation for you? Is every individual selected by God for a certain job in life? What does God want you to do with your life, anyway?

These questions arise often among young adults who are seeking vocational direction. You are probably normal if you have started to ask and wonder about planning a career.

* * * * *

For the Christian believer, seeking God's will concerning our choice of vocation is a necessity! Why? Because God cares! He cares about our choices and decisions. He wants to be involved in the process of our growth. God does have a purpose for each of His children to achieve in life.

The question is, what does God want *you* to achieve?

* * * * *

God looks at our life differently than we do. In God's plan there is an "eternal purpose." There is a plan for the fullness of time "in accordance with which God accomplishes all things according to the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:10, 11; *Revised Standard Version*). In seeking divine guidance and direction in making a career decision, you are actually asking for God's eternal purpose to be accomplished in your life.

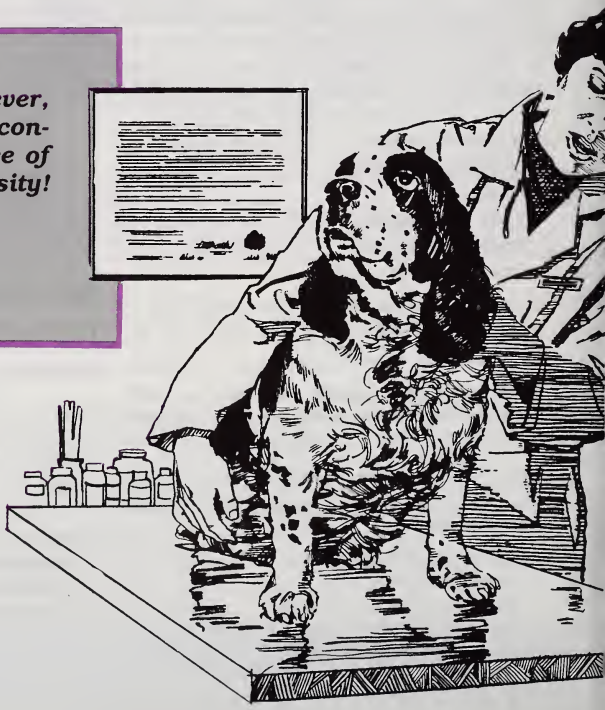
Choosing a career can seem like a once-in-a-lifetime decision. One that can't be changed, forever. Most individuals learn better, however. Your initial job choice and the practice of your vocational skills will lead you to more vocational and career opportunities. Experience will open up a variety of avenues later in life.

It is important, therefore, to communicate your desires in prayer. Read the Scripture, seek godly advice. Talk with your family, your friends, and with professionals in different fields of experience. Listen to the inward prompting of the Holy Spirit.

* * * * *

God will give you divine guidance into His "eternal

For the Christian believer, seeking God's will concerning our choice of vocation is a necessity!



purpose." Confidently, you can take the door He opens. He sees beyond, and this door will be His way to what lies ahead for you.

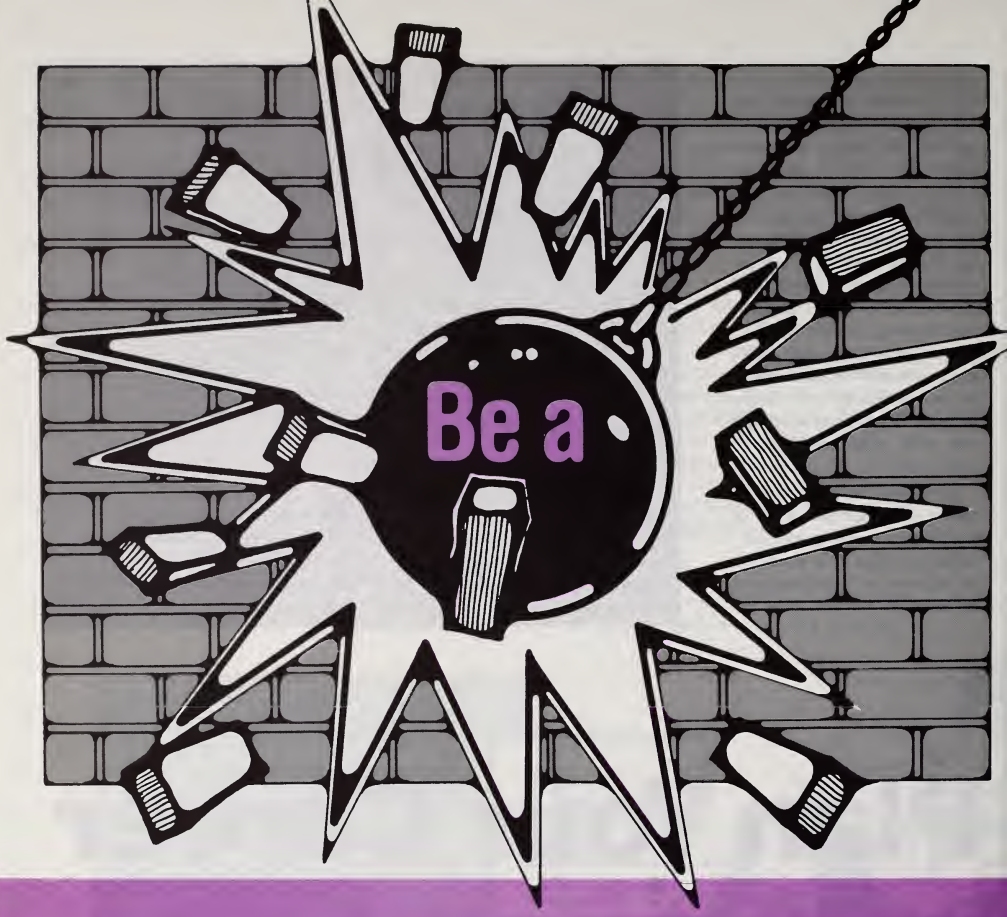
Don't worry about trying to "read the future" or figure out what you'll be doing for the rest of your life. God is in the business of building His people by faith. Skills and training learned at age sixteen or twenty may be used in many different ways by the time a person reaches forty or fifty. Trust God and risk doing your very best right now!

Vocational training and career decisions take a lot of consideration and prayerful planning. Here is a checklist to help you in clarifying your career goals.

	YES	NO
1. If you choose this career, will there be a conflict with your values and morals?	☐	☐
2. Does this job complement your personality? Is it compatible with your Christian lifestyle?	☐	☐
3. Will this career hinder your Christian witness? Does the job put you in contact with the wrong kinds of people?	☐	☐
4. Do you have the educational background this career requires? Are you willing to prepare yourself adequately for this profession?	☐	☐
5. Will this career afford you an opportunity for advancement? Can you grow spiritually, financially, dynamically?	☐	☐
6. Will this career be a salable commodity, in light of the present economy and future circumstances? Money is not everything, but is this career practical? Can you support a family in this vocation?	☐	☐
7. Will you be happy? Will you enjoy this vocation? God's desire is that your career be joy filled! Do you like this kind of work? ☐	☐	☐

Plan Your Career With Confidence

by Eugene and Florie Wigelsworth



Cult Buste

A rapid rise in cult religions appears to keep pace with America's search for spiritual values. You run into a cult apostle nearly every week. Leonard C. Albert, Secretary of Lay Affairs, shows how to counter the doctrine of "another Jesus" that cultists preach . . .

✔ARE MORMONS Christians?
✔What about Christian Scientists?
✔Or the Bahais? Or Moonies?

The average teenager would probably say of at least one of the groups, "Why, yes!"

But they aren't!

Most people say, "But they're such clean-cut, all-American people!"

That may be, but they teach "another Jesus," not the Jesus of the Bible. In Galatians 1:8 Paul says, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

That's pretty plain!

Dr. Charles Beach, in his booklet, *What the Layman Needs to Know in Order to Deal With the Cults*, defines a cult as "a group of people following one person's interpretation of the Scriptures, which interpretation denies one or more of the cardinal doctrines of traditional Christianity: (1) the deity of Christ, (2) the bodily resurrection of Christ, (3) the physical return of Christ, (4) the personality of the Holy Ghost, (5) the Trinity, and (6) eternal punishment for the unsaved."

Dr. Beach further states:

- The JESUS of the Mormons is one god among many gods, a polygamist, a spirit brother to the devil, and an offspring of Adam—not conceived of the Holy Ghost.
- The JESUS of the Witches is a superwitch.
- The JESUS of the Jehovah's Witnesses is a created being, Michael the archangel.
- The JESUS of the Spiritists is an advanced medium.
- The JESUS of the Theosophists is a reincarnation of the world's soul.
- The JESUS of the Meher Baba is one of several personifications or incarnations of God.
- The JESUS of the Hindus is one of many great teachers or gurus.
- The JESUS of the Christian Scientists is a divine idea.
- The JESUS of the Bahais is one of nine great manifestations of the primal point of divinity.
- The JESUS of the Unitarians is an extraordinarily good man.
- And the JESUS of Sun Myung Moon and the Moonies is a failure in God's plan of restoration because He died before marrying and producing the perfect family.

y Leonard C. Albert

- But the JESUS whom we preach—for whom we witness—is the JESUS of the Bible, the Son of God, the second Person of the Triune Godhead, Emmanuel—God with us, and our soon coming King.



H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

"What they mean by salvation and what you mean by salvation are two different things. . . ."

These cultic groups are not scared or shy when it comes to sharing their "other Jesus" with people every day. For this reason you should not only be prepared to share Christ with your friends who get caught up in these false teachings—you should also enlighten fellow Christians who do not know the error of these various groups.

If you are like me, you may be a little frightened when it comes to speaking to cultists about what they believe. What will they say? What will *I* say? How can I answer their questions?

The first step in conquering fear is for you to *study.* The first time I tried witnessing to a cultist I went away from the encounter angry! I was frustrated because I couldn't handle the questions and claims they were making. I was determined to never be in that situation again. But first I had to *study.*

If you are serious about being a true witness for Christ, you will spend time in preparation. To be prepared to witness to cultists you needn't go and buy out your local Christian bookstore. There are a few key books you can

purchase, however, which will help educate you without breaking your bank account (or piggy bank). I will list some in a resource box at the end.

* * * * *

TERMINOLOGY DIFFERENCES alone make it necessary for you to study before attempting to witness to these and other groups. Ask them if they believe in salvation and they will answer, "Yes." What *they* mean by salvation and what *you* mean by salvation, however, are two different things. The same can be said for the terms "Jesus," "resurrection," "gospel," and others.

Another thing. When you are witnessing to cultists, it is good to use their Bible. In the resource box there are some witnessing packets that tell you how to use their scriptures and show them the true Jesus and true salvation.

Cultists need the truth—they need Jesus. We *have* the truth and need to share Him. We need to "study to shew ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Won't you start preparing today to be a "cult buster?" Jesus is counting on you. □

RESOURCES:

- *Kingdom of the Cults* ($11.95)—Dr. Walter Martin. This is the best, most thorough and up-to-date book on the subject. It lists the major cultic groups and gives a history and description of each.
- *Witnessing to the Cults* ($20.00)—Six-tape set contains a free study guide.
- *Jehovah's Witnesses*—Jehovah's Witnesses Witnessing Packet ($8.50/with tapes $20.45)—Contains several books and booklets on JW doctrine, the two JW Bible translations, and witnessing instructional booklets.
- *Moonies*—Moonie Witnessing Packet ($11.95)—Contains a book and tape on *What Do You Say to a Moonie? plus other books and witnessing instructions.*
- *Mormons*—Mormon Witnessing Packet ($7.95)—Contains some of the best books and tapes available on witnessing to Mormons, plus the *Book of Mormon.*
- *Church of God and Roman Catholic Interfaith Marriage* ($1.25)—Explains the importance of marriage and compares the two religions.
- *The Not-So-Amazing Mormonism* ($1.25)—Tells how to witness to Mormons.
- *Reaching Our Jewish Friends* ($1.50)—Tells how to witness to Jews.
- *Who is Sun Myung Moon?* ($1.25)—Tells how to witness to Moonies.
- *Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses* ($1.25)—Tells how to witness to Jehovah's Witnesses.
- *Worldwide Church of God (Armstrong)* ($1.25)—Gives a history of the Worldwide Church of God and compares doctrine.

Order these materials through the *Church of God Office of Lay Affairs, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37320-2430* or your Pathway Bookstore. □

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Take Five

A DAILY BIBLE READING IN SECOND CORINTHIANS

June 1—2 Corinthians 1:1-11
June 2—2 Corinthians 1:12-24
June 3—2 Corinthians 2:1-11
June 4—2 Corinthians 2:12-17
June 5—2 Corinthians 3:1-6
June 6—2 Corinthians 3:7-18
June 7—2 Corinthians 4:1-7
June 8—2 Corinthians 4:8-18
June 9—2 Corinthians 5:1-5
June 10—2 Corinthians 5:6-10
June 11—2 Corinthians 5:11-16
June 12—2 Corinthians 5:17-21
June 13—2 Corinthians 6:1-13
June 14—2 Corinthians 6:14 through 7:1
June 15—2 Corinthians 7:1-9
June 16—2 Corinthians 7:10-16
June 17—2 Corinthians 8:1-7
June 18—2 Corinthians 8:8-15
June 19—2 Corinthians 8:16-24
June 20—2 Corinthians 9:1-5
June 21—2 Corinthians 9:6-9
June 22—2 Corinthians 9:10-15
June 23—2 Corinthians 10:1-11
June 24—2 Corinthians 10:12-18
June 25—2 Corinthians 11:1-15
June 26—2 Corinthians 11:16-23
June 27—2 Corinthians 12:1-10
June 28—2 Corinthians 12:11-21
June 29—2 Corinthians 13:1-6
June 30—2 Corinthians 13:7-14

Youth Leaders Only

WEEK 1:

The issue: Summer Camp

Resource: Camp is much more enjoyable and beneficial when you go prepared. Take a session to talk about youth camp and what young people can expect from attending. Emphasize the dates (see page 6). Have testimonials from individuals who have been affected positively by camp. Use the article on page 3 for inspiration.

WEEK 2:

The issue: Planning for the Future

Resource: Many in your group are wondering about the future. Guidance comes from school counselors and teachers, parents, and peer influence. The church must present the spiritual perspective in looking at and planning for the future. Use the article on page 18 as a beginning point. Discuss how young people can find the will of God. The letter on page 26 can open up a discussion on the possibility of a career for God overseas.

WEEK 3:

The issue: Sharing Your Faith

Resource: One of the greatest hindrances to witnessing today is the proliferation of cults. Use the article on page 20 to open up a discussion of the cults. With the short story on page 8 as a background, be sure to caution your young people about assuming, prematurely, that other's motives or actions are wrong.

WEEK 4:

The issue: The Health of Your Youth Group

Resource: What is the general condition of your youth group? Your state director and the General Department of Youth and Christian Education have resources to help you assess and strengthen your youth ministry. Enlist the help of the group in diagnosing the general health of the ministry. Use the article on page 13 as a guide. Fill out the feedback forms on pages 17 and 27 so that we may help you.

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Carolyn Dirksen sends Julie Beach a

Letter From China

Dear Julie,

Thanks for the beautiful card and promise of goodies to come. The goodies aren't here yet (but neither is the Halloween package). I'm more hopeful about this one though. We had a very nice Easter. We went to church and in the afternoon we had an egg hunt with the other people who live in our building. It was lots of fun.

The high schools here are quite different from those in the United States. You have to pass an examination to go to high school and many of the students live in dormitories on the campus. The classroom structure is quite formal and there is a minimum of equipment. Students learn most things by memorizing them. It's interesting.

We leave on a quick trip next Wednesday. First we go to Luoyang, another ancient capital, to attend a peonie festival. We will visit a Buddhist shrine there, and a tractor factory. Next, we go to Confucius' birthplace and then to a mountain for some climbing—nothing too dramatic. When we get back from that trip, Murl and I are hoping to go to Xi'an (Sian) for a few days.

Later this morning, we are going to visit a woolen mill. We have been having field trips sponsored by the foreign affairs office. We visited an enamel factory, a solar cell factory, a nursery, an embroidery factory, and others. It's pretty interesting, and now that the weather is finally nice, it's fun to get out. We've also been to the Yellow River for two picnics.

We went to Kaifeng's Lantern Festival. It was really colorful and fun. Several students went with us. Hundreds of fantastic lanterns lined the streets. They were all mechanized. It's difficult to describe, but they were great. The streets were jammed with people. Sometimes it was impossible to walk. We just got carried along with the crowd. Murl and I got separated but I had the translator with me, so I didn't get lost. It was really fun.

Well, I hear the 12:00 music which means it's my lunchtime. Thanks for the faithful correspondence.

Love,
Carolyn

YOUTH MINISTRY AND THE SMALLER CHURCH

Do you consider your church a small church? Your youth group a small group? If so, please complete this survey. We want to hear your opinions. Share your needs and your ideas through the pages of *Lighted Pathway.* Future articles will be based on your response.

1. What's your congregation's total membership?

2. How many potential high school young people are connected, either directly or indirectly, to your church?

3. How many high school young people are active in your church?

4. Is your area: (check one)

____ rural
____ suburban
____ inner city
____ small town (less than 10,000)
____ city (10,000 to 25,000)
____ city (more than 25,000)

5. What is your greatest frustration with youth ministry in your church?

6. Describe your congregation's attitude toward ministering to the youth.

7. Who's in charge of youth ministry in your church?

____ pastor, along with other congregational duties
____ full time youth pastor
____ a designated, volunteer youth leader
____ parents
____ youth
____ no one
Other _____

8. What does your district youth director do to serve your group's special needs?

We'd like to do further research on youth ministry in the smaller church. If you'd be willing to help us, please give the following information.

Name: _____

Your church's name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: ( ) _____

Send this page or a photocopy to: ***Lighted Pathway*** Small Church Survey, 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, TN 37311.

Imagine you are editor of *Lighted Pathway.* Would you give more or less space to the following areas:

	MUCH MORE	MORE	LEAVE SAME	LESS	MUCH LESS
a. How-to articles	____	____	____	____	____
b. Meeting ideas	____	____	____	____	____
c. Reviews of new youth ministry materials	____	____	____	____	____
d. Humor	____	____	____	____	____
e. Stories about what other youth groups are doing	____	____	____	____	____
f. News	____	____	____	____	____
g. Youth leader helps	____	____	____	____	____
h. Fiction	____	____	____	____	____
i. Poetry	____	____	____	____	____
j. Youth culture watch	____	____	____	____	____



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(See schedule on page 6)

For further details, contact your
state director of youth and Christian education.

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FINDING YOUR FREEDOM



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BREAKING AWAY

A *LIGHTED PATHWAY* INTERVIEW



What does the phrase "breaking away" mean to you?

Julie: Breaking away has to do with becoming your own person. It's a time when all doors are open, all paths are available; a time of asking questions and making decisions.

Phil: Breaking free means that now I have to think, make decisions, and react without a more mature person around to second guess me.

Why is it important to be independent?

Robin: It gives you a sense of freedom, freedom to make choices in your lifestyle.

Phil: I have always relied on someone else for my decisions, plans, and future. Folks at home gave me direction when I was young and folks at school gave me direction when I was away from home. Now I must determine my own directions, with God's help.

What does "independence" mean?

Phil: Independence means I have to assume responsibility I've never had to assume before. I have to make sure the rent is paid, the phone bill is paid, there's food in the refrigerator, and that I get to work on time. Mom and Dad used to do all those things.

Julie: This is important for a healthy self-esteem. There comes a time in life when you have to prove to yourself and to others that you can make it on your own.

Robin: I would like to be entirely responsible on my own. However, this is hard. You have to be somewhat reliant on your family, at least at first.

To what extent do you want to be physically independent?

Julie: I like to know that I can take care of myself, but it is not healthy to push all people out of your life. You must balance your independence to include others.

Phil: I want to have my own place, yet I want to know there is "home" where I



Julie Beach, *23, is from Davenport, Iowa. A senior in college, she says, "This is the first summer I haven't been home; I'm completely on my own."*



Robin Tirey, *23, is from La Belle, Florida. On her own, she begins her senior year in college in the fall. She is majoring in Elementary Education and Communications.*

can visit on weekends and holidays.

Robin: I will always be emotionally dependent on my family. We are very close and I don't want to change that.

What about emotional independence?

Phil: I find it hard to accept that one can become completely independent emotionally. I did not grow up with my parents around; they were divorced all my life. Yet, I have been told that I have my mother's temper.

Julie: It's easy to carry over habits and attitudes, even ideals of family and close friends. A person can put these to use by discarding the ones he dislikes and integrating the good ones. Attitudes that are uniquely your own take a long time to develop. I think it begins by observing others, looking for admirable habits, and incorporating them into your own life.

Is your attitude about yourself merely a reflection of someone else's opinion of you?

Phil: It used to be. How other people felt about me ruled my life until I decided I was capable of forming my own opinion. Whether I was aware of it or not, I always made the choice to be cheerful and happy, or sad and gloomy.

Robin: Probably, I have a combination of my family's attitudes, my friends' attitudes, and my experiences. But, by being on my own I can pick and choose habits and mannerisms that I like.

What about security?

Julie: Independence means a loss of security. You may have no one to whom you can run for help. It's a shift from the security provided by your family to creating your own security.

Robin: Bills come due and it's up to you to pay them. If something goes wrong in the house, you take care of it. You can't cry "MAMA"!

Julie: New relationships often result from breaking away, especially if it involves relocation. The opportunities for new relationships are immense but only a small percentage usually become deep friendships.

Robin: You have more responsibility and less time. It's up to you how much time you give to relationships. The quality of friends is more important than quantity.

How do you handle friendships that turn out to be one-way instead of two-way?

Phil: Sometimes I see that I'm being used. Admitting you have been used is a difficult thing to do. I usually blow up! However, I'm learning to develop friendships more carefully.

Julie: Friendships that turn out to be one-way have to be handled carefully. It requires a lot of maturity. The one who is rejected must realize that both people are miserable and he must be willing to give up the struggle. The person doing the rejecting needs to use a lot of grace and patience. It's best to have a heart-to-heart talk about the matter.

What about spiritual independence?

Julie: Spiritual independence involves making spiritual decisions. A child can no longer depend on his parents, but must create a



Hoover, *23, is from*
tsville, Alabama. He recently
uated from college and has his
apartment. He is a
editor at Pathway Press.

personal relationship with the Lord. He must examine his spiritual situation and make appropriate decisions.

Phil: This is the most difficult form of independence. No longer does Mom yell at 9:30 on Sunday morning that you're going to be late for Sunday school. Dad doesn't give you that "evil-eye" when you've been whispering on the back pew during the morning sermon. Now, you make your own decisions.

Do you feel your faith is your own, or merely one you've been taught?

Robin: My own. It has changed some since I've grown up. You have to be willing to change and grow, or you will die.

Phil: A taught faith is not taboo. In the Bible Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the faith of the gospel. However, we tend to incorporate and accept things that we have repeated exposure to.

Do you try to be honest in your search for truth?

Phil: Yes. We are bombarded with the false idea that secular truth is the demise of all that is holy, good, and acceptable to God. Nothing could be less true. All truth has its origin in God.

Julie: Honesty in the search for truth is vital. Man is capable of convincing himself of anything, but the truth will always be with him; he cannot escape it. Truth is honesty.

What about variety in friendships. Do you associate only with certain types of people?

Phil: In college I did my best to become close friends with people of all social brackets and learn from all of them.

Julie: Variety in friendships is very important. To associate with only a certain type of person would be to limit yourself and shield yourself from so many new and wonderful ideas and experiences.

Robin: You become stale and unproductive if you associate only with people like you. You need variety, but stand firm in your beliefs.

Some say you should have friends who are more mature than you and some who are less mature. What do you think?

Robin: I agree. None of us are at the same maturity level. We learn from others.

Phil: You can do it but it's not always enjoyable. Around persons more mature, I tend to have an inferiority complex. If they are less mature, I can quickly develop a superiority complex.

Julie: Different levels of maturity throughout your friendships are probably inevitable. It has to do with accepting others. To feel accepted is an essential need in everyone. If I felt I had to prove myself to someone, I would probably change my mind about the value of that particular friendship.

Do either of you have anything to add?

Robin: If someone is going to move out on his own, there are a lot of things to consider. Even if you can pay rent at a certain place, that doesn't mean you can afford it. There are all types of start-up costs—but that's another story. Breaking free is a necessary step in your growth. □

RANDY RAY, 16

Freedom means many things to many people. Quite often, its definitions are as different as the people who give them.

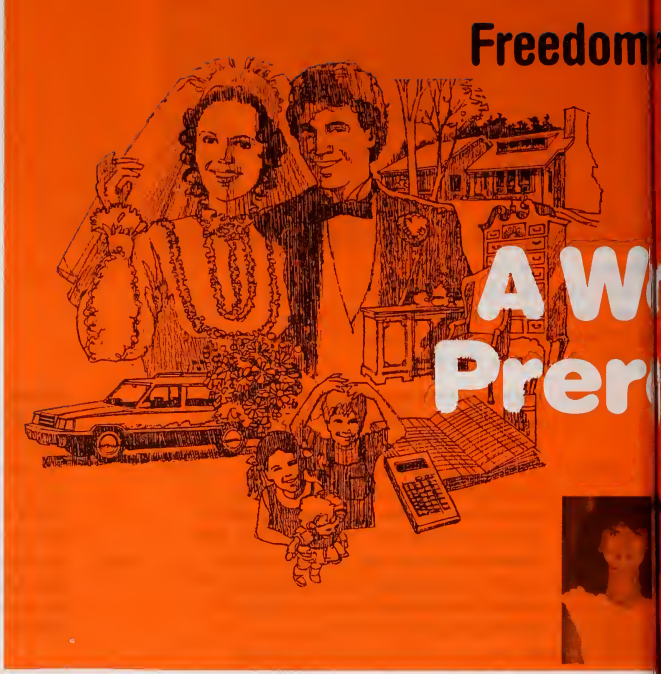
A friend said that to her, freedom is "being treated my own age." That definition is shared by many teenagers. But to me, there must be more to it than just being treated as a 16-year-old. To me, freedom means that whatever I am doing, I do it because I want to.

In some nations, people still die for preaching the faith they believe in. Others are threatened for listening to a preacher. I am happy that in this country I can worship as I please.

Many fail to realize how fortunate they are. During an election, voters have two candidates to choose from. In Russia, a voter sees only one name on the ballot. He may choose only whether or not to vote for the candidate. Those who choose not to vote for the party's candidate often disappear.

However, there is another point just as important. My friend also said that freedom was NOT being told what to do. I agree, but on a larger scale than she meant. In Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World,* infants are programmed from the start as to which life they will lead. In Huxley's world and in ours, people are told what they will do in life.

To me, freedom is having the right to make my own choices. I define freedom as *choice.* □



Working as an intern this summer at WTKR-TV3 in Virginia Beach fulfills some of the requirements for a Masters in Communications for Valerie Dixon. She is a student at CBN University. . . .

WHEN BEVERLY GRADUATED from school, she embarked on a career. Talent and drive led her to employment in a large public agency. Soon, she became a senior staff member. Beverly found she was surrounded by males in the agency. So she tried to be one of the boys by hanging around them and imitating their behavior. She wanted the men to accept her as a man. But this approach destroyed her credibility. The men in the agency constantly overlooked her good ideas in managing the company.

In contrast, Carole was another senior staff member at the agency. She communicated her ideas and plans in the context of her experiences as a woman. Consequently, she gained the respect of the men. She was influential because her different perspective gave diversity to the

e 80's:

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ative

lerie Dixon

organization. She used what she knew and what she was, thus aiding the staff in functioning more effectively.

Carole became free and more fulfilled than Beverly because she did not try to change or distort the handiwork of God.

* * * *

How can you, a young woman living in the mid-80's, really be free? The Bible says, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). Freedom can be achieved for women in three areas. The first is *in your relationship to Christ.* Women are freed by Christ, not *from* life, but *for* life. You can find fulfillment wherever Christ leads you. Your responsibility is to follow Him. Freedom is doing what we should do, not doing what we want to do. We are not servants of our lack of freedom, but servants of God.

God gives you, as a young woman, unique abilities. The Bible says that He will give you the desires of your heart. This does not mean that whatever you want God will give it to you. Instead, it means that as you are in tune with His Spirit, His desires become your desires.

Another area in which you can have total freedom is *in your relationship with your husband.* Most young women feel that someday they will be married. If you are totally secure in who you are and your husband is secure in who he is, freedom will exist. Each person must respect the other. When the two of you are secure in who you are, your husband will not be threatened should you decide to pursue interests outside the home. Instead, he will support you.

Outside the home does not necessarily mean a career. It also means being involved in community or religious activities.

* * * *

You can achieve freedom in your relationship with Christ, in your relationship with your marriage partner, and *in your relationship with yourself.* This means you can be free to be yourself.

When you take time to develop yourself through career training, education, and experience, you prepare yourself for other complex roles. This maturing time is vital. Even if you decide to stay home after you are married, you will still be more valuable to your husband if you have a healthy background. The mature woman with a rich background has much to offer a marriage partner.

Varied experiences better equip you for conversation. They prepare you for coping with problems and frustrations. The experience and confidence you gain in building a career will aid in different situations of life.

A career also gives a married woman insurance in case something should happen to her husband. Through working in the marketplace, you discover your strengths and weaknesses. Knowing yourself has a direct connection to giving yourself to others.

In the work world some will want you to become more like men. They will urge you to dress like men and carry out policies as a man would. Don't try to copy men. You have your own unique characteristics. You can contribute to society as a whole person, not as a copy of someone else. Concentrate on your natural strengths. Fulfill your potential.

Becoming involved in activities with other people and in the world around you is an advantage. It gives you an attitude of openness toward others and respect for the personhood of others. Through these contacts you learn more about yourself. Self identity allows growth.

Women who are free to be themselves are able to help others grow.

Should you have a career? Only you can answer that. And you can answer it only when you put God first and seek His will. Learning God's will is top priority.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). □

Lighted Pathway Survey:



SOME ANSWERS

A recent poll of Church of God young people posed the question. "What does **breaking free** mean to you?" Here are some answers:

- Angela Howell, 18: *Fun and the responsibility of working for a living . . .*
- Don Lynch, 17: *Being independent of my parents' will or wants. . . .*
- Kristy Blair, 14: *Being able to make decisions and taking on responsibility without depending on others, such as parents . . .*
- Athena Taylor, 13: *Getting away from my parents. . . .*
- Wayne Slocumb, 16: *Independence. . . .*
- Tachsha Keller, 15: *Supporting myself. . . .*
- Stephanie Moses, 13: *Having all the responsibility for living resting on my shoulders. . . .*
- Stephen Lee Teaster, 17: *Taking on the responsibilities and freedoms of adulthood. . . .*
- Shana Fulbright, 15: *Accepting responsibility for yourself. . . .*
- Cheri Burt, 16: *Being able to make your own decisions and plan things without having to consult people at every turn. . . .*
- Jay Taylor, 14: *Taking on all the responsibilities in life. . . .*
- Paige Hatmaker, 17: *Making your own decisions and taking responsibility for your actions. . . .*
- Alicia Hughes, 16: *Getting away from your parents and starting your own life. . . .*
- Paul Burt, 14: *Being able to make your own choices, learning your own lessons, having more responsibilities and privileges. . . .*
- Jill Hopkins, 15: *Having more responsibility and needing help in the real world. . . .*
- Danitra Long, 18: *Doing things you want to without saying anything to your parents. . . .*

Looking for his first job, Eddie discovers that the road to full-time employment often takes some unexpected turns. . . .



A Bridge Not Burned

by Esther M. Bailey

A MOCKINGBIRD'S MELODY floats through the window before the first rays of sunshine. In that magic land where dreams still linger, Eddie's mind clutches hope.

The alarm's blast reminds him that today will probably be just like all the other 26 days since he graduated from high school. He'll chase all over town and at day's end, he'll still be unemployed. His mood isn't exactly in line with his Christian faith, but at this point even prayer seems to have failed.

Eddie dresses quickly and hurries through breakfast. He paces the 32 steps across the front porch fourteen and a half times before the morning paper arrives.

The paper boy whistles and waves as he tosses the paper to Eddie from the street. *Why shouldn't he whistle?* Eddie thinks. *At least he has a job.*

"Help wanted" ads are scarce



so it doesn't take long to outline his schedule. By now Eddie knows the rules of the game. "Apply in person" jobs are filled by noon; "phone numbers to call" are usually busy. Anyway, he'll make the personal appearance rounds and sandwich in a few telephone calls between stops.

He notices a film of dust on the windows of his Mustang, so he stops for a quick wash job. His usual joy of ownership is dulled by the painful thought that he'll have to give up the car if he doesn't find work soon.

The doors are locked at Sheffield Industries. A sign says opening time is 8 a.m. Eddie decides to take another try at prayer. *Please, God, lead me to the place where You want me to work,* he prays from the depths of his heart. He isn't sure God will answer, but somehow he feels better.

Promptly at 8 a.m., a young girl opens up. Eddie follows her in and anxiously inquires about the opening for an inventory control clerk.

"As a matter of fact, you're the first applicant," she says.

"Good."

She picks up an application blank, then pauses. "You are looking for a permanent job, aren't you? Mr. Goodwin doesn't want to see students looking for summer jobs."

"I'm definitely looking for a permanent job."

"That's good. You look like just the type Mr. Goodwin would hire—" she smiles, then adds, "that is, if my good judgment of character is working today."

"Thanks."

Eddie's optimism carries through to the interview with Mr. Goodwin. It is surprising what a little encouragement can do. Mr. Goodwin is pleasant and seems to like Eddie, too. This certainly would be a good place to work—not too far from home, either.

"I'm sorry," Mr. Goodwin is saying, "you're the kind of employee we want here at Sheffield Industries, but we really do need someone with experience."

"I'm good with figures," Eddie persists, "and I think I could learn fast."

"I'm sure you could but we need someone who can take over the job right now. Tell you what, Eddie. I'll keep your application on my desk and if we don't have an experienced applicant with qualifications, I'll give you a call."

Two summers ago Eddie didn't even have to look for a job. Mr. Graham, a neighbor's son, owned a tool business and needed some extra help. His plant turned out to be near Dad's office which was convenient because Eddie didn't have a car. So Eddie ended up working that summer as a shipping clerk for Catco Tools. He used the extra spending money he earned to buy a car.

The enthusiastic one about the job, however, was Dad. "Be sure to work hard and do a good job," Dad kept saying.

Eddie was fair with his employer but he didn't get excited about it. After all, it was only a summer job. Dad's architectural business was going well, and Eddie expected to go on to college after high school.

But he did try to do a good job. He was well-organized and he worked as fast as anyone else. Even Dad couldn't ask for more than that.

Mr. Graham himself was the hardest worker in the company and Eddie developed a real admiration for him.

"We got a big order that had to be delivered tonight," Eddie told Dad one evening, "and do you know, Mr. Graham came back to take over my job after I left."

"The next time that happens, Eddie, why don't you offer to stay and help Mr. Graham."

"Do you think it's necessary to go that far, Dad? I work hard all day."

"I know, but don't forget about

"Yes, we can always use a good employee around here. . . ."

that second mile, son." Dad placed a hand on Eddie's shoulder. "Actually, Jesus gave us the key to business success in His Sermon on the Mount. If you want to get ahead, be willing to give a little extra."

"But, Dad, I'm not going to make a career of pushing tools. This is only a summer job."

"When you've lived as long as I have, you learn never to burn your bridges behind you."

But the next time the work load got heavy, Eddie, without really knowing why, offered to stay after hours and help. Soon it became a habit to do a little more than was required. Mr. Graham noticed and told Eddie how much he appreciated his hard work. At the end of the summer he surprised Eddie with a nice bonus.

All in all, that summer was a good experience and Eddie had expected to work there again last summer. An accident on water skis, however, left him with a broken leg and a summer job became impossible.

* * * * *

So much has changed since two summers ago. After the big construction firm in the area went under, there wasn't much demand for an architect's services. Dad had to lay off his men. College for Eddie is out of the question right now, and just last week the house went up for sale in hopes they can move to a cheaper place.

If only I can find a job, Eddie thinks, *things wouldn't seem quite so hopeless.*

Suddenly, it struck him. What about Catco Tools?

Why hadn't he thought of it before? True, he hasn't seen any ads in the paper, but a company that size must have some opening. And he has an in with Mr. Graham.

Eddie loses no time in driving over to Catco Tools. He wants to catch Mr. Graham before lunch.

"Well, Eddie, it's good to see you again," Mr. Graham said cordially.

"Thanks. It's good to see you too."

"How's the leg? I really felt your accident last summer was Catco Tools' loss."

"The leg's fine now. And I was wondering if you had any openings in your company for a recent high school graduate."

"You're going to postpone college for a while?"

"Yes. My dad's business has really been hit hard."

"I can imagine. We're a little slow but still doing well enough. There's one advantage to the mechanics hand tool business: if manufacturers cut down on tools to build new products, there's more demand for them in the repair department. To answer your question, however, yes, we can always use a *good* employee around here."

Eddie wants to hug Mr. Graham but restrains himself. He accepts the offer with the dignity of a handshake. They talk for quite a while and Eddie feels he knows Mr. Graham better and admires him more.

A light-headed Eddie flies to the parking lot sometime later. He won't have to give up his car after all. What can he do to celebrate?

Of course! The answer is obvious. Share the good news with Dad and Mom over lunch.

"Dad, I got a job."

"Congratulations, son. That's great news."

"You'll never guess where."

"Catco Tools."

"Why, you've had that in mind all along. Why didn't you tell me?"

"I would have eventually, if necessary. But I've been praying a lot about it. I just had a feeling God would help you discover the thrill of stepping onto the safety of that unburned bridge." □

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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

THE CHOICES OF Freedom

Tom moved out on his own this summer. Now there's no one to watch him closely, no one to monitor him. He comes and goes as he pleases. His parents encouraged him to break free.

As a Christian, however, Tom constantly faces choices he never thought much about before.

* * * *

Rachel gained her freedom this summer also. The primary difference is that Rachel is still at home.

Out of school, she has a job that doesn't pay much because of her lack of experience. By the time she furnishes her own transportation and buys a few clothes for work, there isn't enough money left for an apartment. So she's living at home, temporarily, until her situation improves.

Realizing Rachel's need for freedom, her parents have loosened the strings more than she ever dreamed they would. They still want to know about her comings and goings, but Rachel pretty much makes her own decisions these days.

* * * *

Tom and Rachel face the same dilemmas. What is the meaning of freedom? How do you make a choice? Decide on an option? Some decisions are easy. The answers are clear-cut. If the Bible says something is wrong, for instance, you don't do it. If it violates your ethics, or your moral code, you have no problem with turning it down.

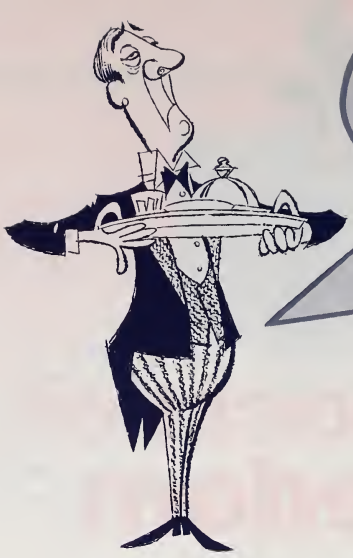
But what about those times when the answers aren't so clear-cut? The matter is not a life and death issue. Your options are not weighted either way; they seem to be equal. How then do you decide what to do?

Tom and Rachel have found out what Paul the apostle was talking about in *1 Corinthians 6:12, 13:* "I can do anything I want to if Christ has not said no, but some of these things aren't good for me. Even if I am allowed to do them, I'll refuse to if I think they might get such a Grip on me that I can't easily stop if I want to.

"For instance, take the matter of eating. . . ." *Living Bible.*

In at least three different books of the New Testament Paul uses the matter of eating to talk about making choices, and freedom. Let's follow his example.

On the next page you can check to see how familiar you are with tasty delicacies which are available in most cities in America. Then we'll look at Paul's example of eating meat offered to idol gods and see how this relates to our freedom. The Bible Crossword Puzzle on Food should be interesting.



May I Take YOUR ORDER

Cruise down Main Street in any city and you will see a string of restaurants featuring food from far-flung places of the world. You can hardly find "local" food anymore.

No matter where you live, you can get fried chicken from Kentucky or Maryland, pizza from Italy, steaks from New York or Kansas City, tacos from Mexico, omelets from Denver, and egg rolls from China. Tasty morsels tantalize your taste buds as you sample food from all over the globe.

Think you've tried them all? See how well you know these ethnic foods:

1. _____ tortilla	a. Spanish soup
2. _____ moussaka	b. Indian bread
3. _____ tandoori	c. Mexican pancake filled with meat
4. _____ feta	d. Chinese appetizer
5. _____ tempura	e. Goat cheese from Greece
6. _____ gazpacha	f. Mexican bread
7. _____ enchilada	g. A kind of Indian casserole
8. _____ baklava	h. Japanese fried sea food and vegetables
9. _____ puri	i. Greek dish of egg plant, lamb and tomatoes
10. _____ Dim Sum	j. Mid-Eastern pastry

Answers: 1-f; 2-i; 3-g; 4-e; 5-h; 6-a; 7-c; 8-j; 9-b; 10-d

LOOK IN THE WORD

Use the *Living Bible* for this study.

1 Corinthians 8

1. Read *verses 4 through 9*: Tell in your words why Paul felt it was all right to eat meat that had been offered to idols?

2. *Verses 10 through 13*: Give a modern example of committing this sin Paul warns about.

3. "Dear Brothers, you have been given freedom: not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love others as you love yourself.' " (*Galatians 5:13, 14*)

1 Corinthians 6:12, 13

1. Why did Paul refuse to do some things which Christ did not specifically forbid (*verse 12*)?

2. Read *verse 13*. When is eating a sin?

3. With what does the Lord wish to fill our bodies?

Romans 14:13 through 19

1. Read *verse 13*. How can you cause your brother to stumble?

2. Does *verse 14* teach "situation ethics"? Discuss this and give a reason for your answer.

3. Tell about something you cannot do, although other Christians can without any apparent twinge of conscience.

4. Read *verse 15* and fill in the blanks:
"If your brother is _____ by what you _____, you are not _____ _____ _____ if you go ahead and eat it."

5. *Verse 16*. What is Paul's reasoning for avoiding criticisms?

6. Name three things *verse 17* says are more important than what we eat or drink.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

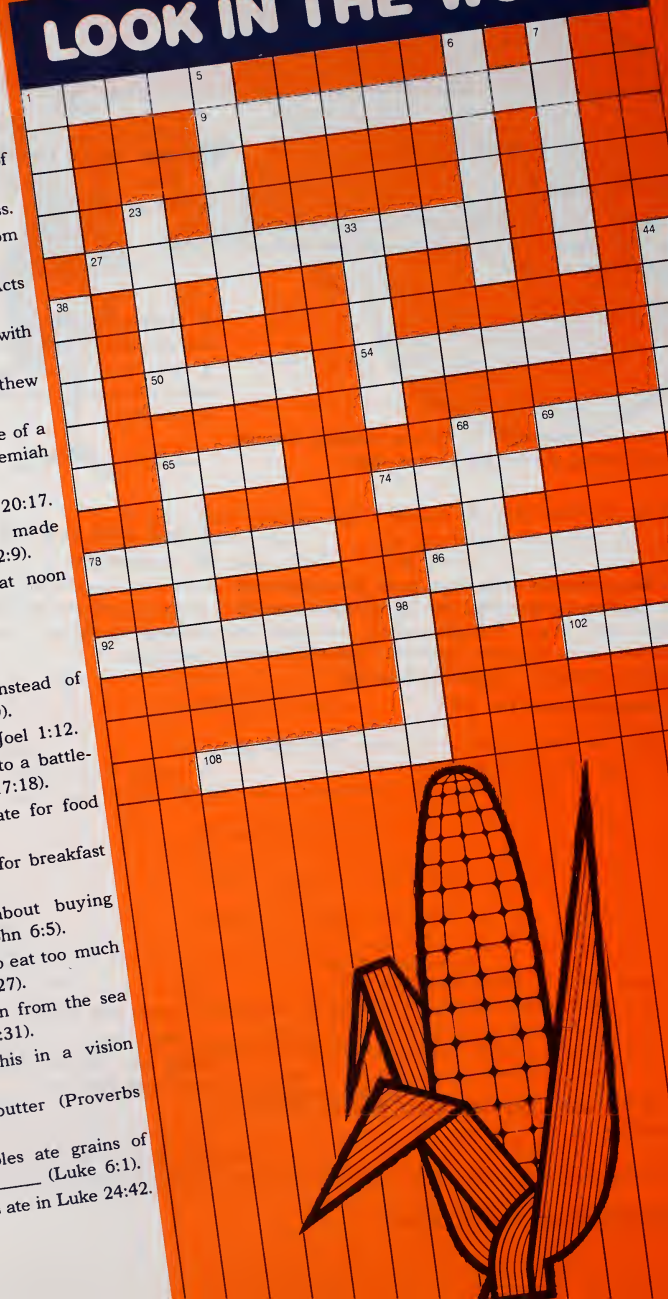
7. *Verse 18* says, "Letting Christ be Lord makes God _____ and others _____."

8. Discuss this concept.

9. Read *verse 19*. List some ways our youth group can "aim for harmony in the church and build each other up."

Use the *Living Bible*.

LOOK IN THE WORD



ACROSS:

1—Israel complained about _____ (Numbers 11:6).

9—The first variety of nuts in Genesis 43:11.

27—Daniel and his friends ate this (Daniel 1:12).

50—Elisha asked for a bowl of this (2 Kings 2:20).

54—Second variety from 9 across.

65—Jesus taught a lesson from this tree (Mark 13:28).

69—He blessed a meal in Acts 27:35.

74—Elijah fed young prophets with this (2 Kings 4:42).

78—Puppies eat these (Matthew 15:27).

86—Food made in the shape of a heathen goddess (Jeremiah 44:19).

92—Dairy product in Job 20:17.

102—Jesus' first miracle made _____ (John 2:9).

108—He hosted a meal at noon (Genesis 43:16).

DOWN

1—This was given instead of water (Judges 4:19).

5—Common fruit in Joel 1:12.

6—Food David took to a battlefield (1 Samuel 17:18).

7—An insect John ate for food (Matthew 3:4).

23—He cooked fish for breakfast (John 21:9).

33—Jesus asked about buying _____ (John 6:5).

38—It is harmful to eat too much (Proverbs 25:27).

44—Food blown in from the sea (Numbers 11:31).

65—Amos saw this in a vision (Amos 8:2)

68—It makes butter (Proverbs 30:33).

91—The Disciples ate grains of _____ (Luke 6:1).

98—What Jesus ate in Luke 24:42.



What Teenagers Want From Their Pastor

The Downstairs Attic Photo

When he was 16, Keith Hardy wrote this "open letter to pastors." He has since graduated from high school and lives in Arlington, Texas.

by Keith Hardy

WE TEENAGERS REALLY get the brunt of criticism these days.

If a teenage girl gets pregnant, she's the talk of the town. If an unmarried adult gets pregnant, no one except close friends hears about it. If one of us shoots an innocent person, the public can't forget his name. But an adult who does that is forgotten the next day. Our dress, our diet, and our music are criticized. Teenagers who take drugs are looked at with suspicion and

fear, even though many adults are addicted to valium.

A lot of teenagers are a pain in the neck because a lot of us haven't gotten the direction we needed in life, especially in our early years. We need help in growing up from our parents, our teachers, and our pastors.

* * * *

We need, and look for, three major things from our pastors—friendship, guidance, and example.

Participate in our activities, pastors. Be part of our lives. But please don't compromise your principles and approve what you know is detrimental to us in order to "buddy up." If what we want is wrong, tell us so! Don't be afraid you'll hurt our feelings. Sure, we may look hurt at the time, but we'll think about what you say.

Remember, teenagers, like adults, don't respect anyone who can't stand for what he knows is right. If you know that rock music is bad and that today's dances are immoral, then tell us so. If you're asked by some of your youth to chaperone a party and you suspect that alcoholic beverages will be served, decline the invitation.

We teenagers need a pastor who, as our friend, will draw the line in today's permissive society. If you stand for what's right and don't compromise with us, we'll respect your advice. But please do participate in our activities when they are good.

* * * *

Be interested in us. Of course we aren't the mature, experienced people your adult colleagues are, but we don't want someone who enters our lives when we need correcting or when he has a sermon on his tongue. We need for our pastor to take time for a rap session with us or just to call us on the phone and chat for a while. There are some things we can tell you that we couldn't tell anyone else. Ask about our schoolwork, our dates, our plans for the weekend. We need to know that you care.

If you expect us to open up to you, you'll need to have an open attitude—an attitude that tells us you don't think of us as pests or inferiors, but as regular people needing to talk with someone. We're still close enough to childhood to notice instinctively how you feel toward us by the look in your eyes, your facial expressions, your tone of voice. We don't talk to uninterested strangers.

We want our pastors to guide our feet with biblical truth—not traditions, not philosophies, but something we can be sure of. Moonies, Peoples' Temple, and Hare Krishnas are the result, in part at least, of giving teenagers anything and everything except the Bible.

* * * *

Don't cram religion down our throats, though. We've heard "Don't do that; the Bible says not to!" until a lot of us tend to think of God as a mean, fun-abhorring tyrant who brings us nothing but misery. We don't read the Bible because it's presented as always telling us not to do this or that. We might listen if we were shown from the Bible a legitimate reason for abiding by its principles.

Probably even more important than teaching us spiritual things in a pleasant manner and giving us biblical principles instead of men's is helping us make decisions in everyday life. Pastors talk about life being a constant controversy between good and bad, and no one knows this more than teenagers. We may be immature, but we are at the point of making decisions about how we want to live and what our values will be.

Adults, who are supposedly mature and able to handle temptation, can give us direction. As pastors, you can be a great source of help and strength by pointing out potential problems, so that we can make intelligent decisions between the right and the wrong ways. Don't misunderstand! We don't want you to make our decisions for us. We just want you to give us something to think about while we make our own decisions.

* * * *

We can't stand pastors who are hypocrites. We're very observant, and we know when you preach one thing and live to the contrary. If you live what you tell us to do, we'll be much more likely to follow your example. I know we are to follow Christ's example and not man's, but it does help us to have a tangible illustration of what we should do or be like.

Too many of us excuse ourselves by saying, "Well, my pastor does it, so it must be all right." We don't expect you to be perfect, of course, but we do expect consistency and sincerity.

I guess what I'm trying to say is just be there when we need you. Correct us gently but firmly; live by the standards you proclaim.

We teenagers will respect and love you, and things ought to get better for both of us. □

The World's Most UNUSAL WAR

by Dan Wooding

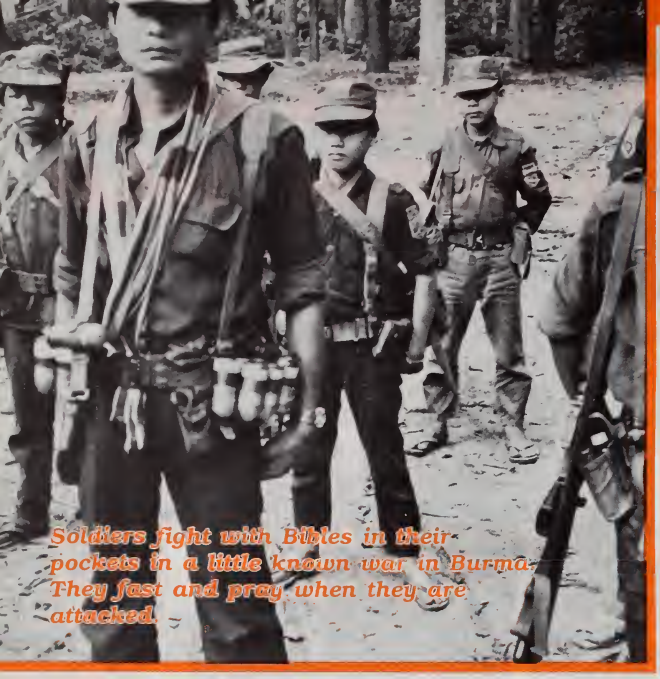
IT WAS THE MOST unusual Bible study I've ever attended. Sitting around me in a secret hideout in Burma were members of the Karen National Liberation Army, their Bibles clasped firmly in one hand and their rifles in the other.

"Gideon was a good major," said Colonel Taw Hla, commander of the 101st Battalion, his well-worn Bible spread out on a crude wooden table in front of him. "I admire Gideon and many of the Old Testament leaders. I especially like Moses, Joseph, and Gideon; and model myself after them."

A chicken fluttered and flapped between my legs as we sat on bamboo chairs in the

Photos by Dan Wooding

Colonel Taw Hla, left, and Captain Nae Soe with Dan Wooding, correspondent for Open Doors News Service. Top: Teenage members of KNLA in a secret hideout in Burma.



Soldiers fight with Bibles in their pockets in a little known war in Burma. They fast and pray when they are attacked.

wooden headquarters of one of the world's most extraordinary guerrilla groups. We continued our study of God's Word.

"Gideon was a good major," repeated Colonel Hla, a committed Christian, as he adjusted his voluminous sarong. "So I follow all the ways of these leaders. There was the case of David taking on Goliath—and we know who won that one!"

Hla began fighting against the Burmese in 1949 when he was eighteen years old. He fingered his Bible and told me, "I am a Christian, and I firmly believe God is still a miracle-working God. I believe He will perform another miracle with us."

Until I met these tribal people of Burma, I had no idea they were engaged in what must be the longest-running civil war in the world. Fifteen thousand members of the KNLA and the KNLO (Karen National Liberation Organization) have been fighting for their independence since January 5, 1949. They believe the Burmese government has been conducting a policy of genocide against them for three decades. They say the socialistic government wants to destroy their unique way of life.

* * * *

I was taken to the camp by Brother David, the American-born leader of Open Doors in Asia. We had made contact with Karens outside Burma and they had arranged for us to visit their camp across the fast-flowing Salween River from Thailand. The guerrillas sent a motor-powered dug-out canoe for us.

Soon we scrambled up the bank with the eager help of soldiers from the KNLA. We soon learned that this remarkable army is unpaid. Many are evangelical Christians and the leadership is almost entirely evangelical. The fighting men carry Bibles in their pockets; they fast and pray before an expected attack by the enemy.

The civil war began shortly after the British handed Burma over to the Burmese. The Karens, who originated in Mongolia, didn't want to be part of Burma; they wanted to continue their unique and puritanical way of life unhindered. Soon hostilities broke out. On December 24, 1948 Karen Christians were brutally massacred during a Christmas Eve service at Kwa Cheh village in the Palauk township.

Other massacres, the Karens claim, followed. On January 5, 1949 a terrible war began that has claimed the lives of some 10,000 Karens, including 5,000 civilians. (I was not able to discover how many Burmese have died in the war.)

The Karens were introduced to Christianity in the 1800s after the British conquered Burma and missionaries began evangelizing the country. American Baptist missionaries played a big role in helping the Karens in the past. Under their guidance, Karen schools were established and a Karen press was started at Tavoy in 1841.

"Subsequently, many Karens became Christians," said Saw Moo Troo, a spokesman for the Karens.

Now, 40 percent of the tribal people are believers. This, they say, is part of the problem with the Burmese.

"The Burma government say they are socialist," said Ruth, the wife of a Karen doctor. "They also say they are Buddhist. But actually they are not. They don't believe in anything. So they think that Christians get their religion from the English and American people. They think all Christians are the servants of the Americans and English. So they really hate us. That's the truth and God knows it!"

She said that Christian groups like Open Doors with Brother Andrew, and the World Home Bible League have supplied Karen-language pocket Bibles and hymnals.

"The soldiers carry the Bibles in their pockets, they take them everywhere. Some carry the Bible just as a mascot, but many are deep believers," said Ruth.

"If they get time to rest under the trees, they take out their Bibles and read them. Then they remember what they have been taught from childhood; they get inspiration that way. The Bible helps a lot."

The Karens enforce a strict moral code among their people. Drug trafficking is strictly prohibited and those caught risk the death penalty. Even hard liquor is banned. Karens who slip across to Thailand to imbibe and return drunk are automatically jailed for seven days.

Burmese officials make no attempt to conceal their contempt for the Karens, and have even labeled them "the wild cattle of the jungles."

The territory the Karens claim as their own is a verdant virgin mountain wilderness, a place of wild, primitive beauty and soaring grandeur. Some say it is almost isolated from the rest of the world. It could be paradise if only peace would come.

For good reason, the Karens named it *Kawthoolei* or "land of peace and riches." Beneath the earth lies a wealth of buried treasure: tin, wolfram, silver, gold, lead, zinc, iron, antimony, and uranium. Even more tempting is black gold—oil!

* * * *

When I contacted the Burmese Embassy in Washington, D.C. for their version of the war, a spokesman said firmly, "We don't have any comment on this matter. This is our internal problem." The Karens, however, want President Reagan to get involved.

"I would like President Reagan, who is a Christian brother, to become a peacemaker in this dispute," said Colonel Taw. "We as a Karen nation do not want Southeast Asia to fall into the hands of the communists and socialists, and we believe he has the same point of view.

"We don't want to be under any other nation. We want an autonomous state and our own government. We must have freedom of our own, a national freedom. We believe that our Christian brother, Ronald Reagan, could play a big part in stopping the killing here."

But, my conversation with a State Department spokesman revealed that the United States Government has washed its hands of the Burma-Karen war.

Miss C. F. Britz and the youth of Elsburg Church of God in South Africa would like to correspond with youth in the United States. Write:

Miss C. F. Britz
27 Smit Street
Elsburg 1407
Transvaal
R. S. A.

"It is an internal matter and is not normally something we would be expected to take a position on," said the spokesman. "We do, however, hope they can resolve their differences."

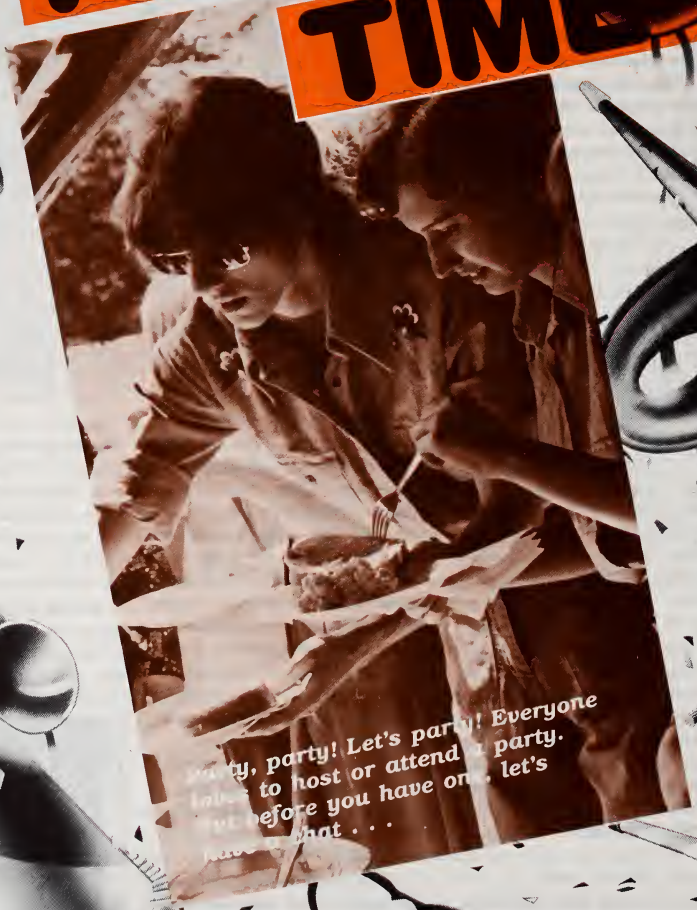
He added that the United States has good relations with the Burmese government and that "this matter is not something of deep, abiding foreign policy concern to the United States."

I asked Colonel Hla what Christians could do regarding this situation. "I would ask them to pray that the Burmese would have their eyes opened so that we would not need to be enemies anymore, but we could be friends again," he said.

Maybe prayer is now the only answer to this situation. Pray for a just and fair settlement of a war that appears to have no end. □



PART TIME



...rty, party! Let's party! Everyone ...s to host or attend a party. ...t before you have one, let's ... that . . .

by Jeannie Robinson

FELLOWSHIP IS vital to Church of God young people. Parties, socials, and get-togethers play a significant role in our closeness with one another. Parties can be a great time of fun and fellowship or, without proper planning, they can be a BIG FLOP.

So, let's make your next party a success. You've got a lot of planning to do, but with these helpful hints, the planning can be easy.

First, obtain permission for a party.

Believe me, the first and most important thing you should do is to talk with your parents about your desire to have a party. Ask their advice and be willing to listen and accept their ideas. Then they will be more willing to consider your thoughts. Talk with them about how much money to spend, how many people to invite, what kind of food and refreshments to serve, how long the party should last, and so forth. Good cooperation always makes a party run smoother.

Second, decide what kind of party you want to have.

Anyone can give "just any old party." But the time together will be more memorable if a specific reason, season, or theme is chosen.

a. There are always birthday parties, especially "Trusting 13," "Sweet 16," "Exciting 18," and any of the "Terrific 20's."

b. Celebrity birthday: you can have a celebration in honor of George Washington's birthday or Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

c. There are the traditional holiday extravaganzas: New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

d. Theme parties might include:
Hawaiian Luau
back-to-school
country-western
hayride
lawn picnic
end of school
ice cream bash
40's, 50's, or 60's party
watermelon
after-church
and trivia

Third, determine how many guests and how you will invite them.

If the area where the party will be held is small and the budget is low, don't invite too many guests. A party is "dead" if there is a large crowd and not enough room to mingle. If expense is no problem and the room is large enough, feel free to invite as many as you wish. Always keep in mind that a few can be just as much fun as a large crowd.

Sending invitations is nice and proper. Whether you buy them printed or make them yourself, they can be impressive. Of course, you can always telephone your friends and personally invite them. Should you decide to call, you might want to ask them how they will arrive and who will come for them. Unless you or your parents agree beforehand to transport the guests, it's best to let them know that they are responsible for getting to and from the party.

Fourth, set a time for the party.

The date is always important, but the time is too. Set an exact time to begin and, just as importantly, a time to end. For example: 7 to 10 p.m., 8 to midnight, noon to 4 p.m. It's better to end the party with everyone enjoying themselves than to allow it to die or fizzle out on its own. Stop before it becomes a bore.

Fifth, outline the details of your party.

To make the party theme more obvious and important, match it with the right props and decorations. No matter how small, inexpensive, or detailed, some form of decoration usually makes a party more "alive" and exciting.

Refreshments may be anything you choose. They may be heavy or light, finger foods, or knife and fork specialities. Your party food should complement the theme. An important reminder is to always have plenty of a few items, rather than a small amount of many items.

These five ideas are guidelines for you to use when planning your party. At the same time be creative and add your own style. Give your party your own unique touch.

Have fun! Plan a good party and invite me! □

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A DAILY BIBLE READING FROM THE PSALMS

July 1—Psalm 119:1-8
July 2—Psalm 119:9-16
July 3—Psalm 119:17-24
July 4—Psalm 119:25-32
July 5—Psalm 119:33-40
July 6—Psalm 119:41-48
July 7—Psalm 119:49-56
July 8—Psalm 119:57-64
July 9—Psalm 119:65-72
July 10—Psalm 119:73-80
July 11—Psalm 119:81-88
July 12—Psalm 119:89-96
July 13—Psalm 119:97-104
July 14—Psalm 119:105-112
July 15—Psalm 119:113-120
July 16—Psalm 119:121-128
July 17—Psalm 119:129-136
July 18—Psalm 119:137-144
July 19—Psalm 119:145-152
July 20—Psalm 119:153-160
July 21—Psalm 119:160-168
July 22—Psalm 119:169-172
July 23—Psalm 120
July 24—Psalm 121
July 25—Psalm 122
July 26—Psalm 123
July 27—Psalm 124
July 28—Psalm 125
July 29—Psalm 126
July 30—Psalm 127
July 31—Psalm 128

Youth Leaders Only

THE LIGHTED PATHWAY is your companion for personal growth and encouragement. It is also designed as a supplement for you to use in your weekly youth meetings. Here is how you can use this issue:

*Take ten minutes up front to discuss an important issue dealt with in an article.

*See that everyone participates; don't allow a few to monopolize the discussion.

*Don't take too long. Stop while there are still issues unresolved; then the discussion will continue after the meeting.

WEEK 1:

The issue: Freedom

Resource: Discuss the issue of freedom and what it means with your youth group. Use the articles on *page 6* and *page 7* as sparks to get you started. Girls and freedom should be a lively one.

WEEK 2:

The issue: Breaking Free

Resource: Use the material on *pages 3, 4,* and *5* as a starting point. Explore with your group the meaning of "being on your own."

WEEK 3:

The issue: The Bible and Freedom

Resource: The Bible study on *pages 13-15* shows the biblical perspective on moral and spiritual freedom.

WEEK 4:

The issue: A Christian's Social Life

Resource: Plan a party, using the guidelines on *page 22.* Lead a discussion on love and how to know "if this is it!" See *page 26.*

WEEK 5:

The issue: Missions Emphasis

Resource: Is freedom precious enough to fight for it? Use the article on *pages 19-21* and discuss missions, war, social justice.



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How to



Know When Yo

TRENT NEVER FELT better in his life! Every day is filled with sunshine. Bursting with excitement, he jumps out of bed in the morning. He does his chores without prodding. His astounded parents marvel at the changes that have come over him recently.

Trent's part-time job keeps him busy and the people at work talk about how he never gets upset anymore. He can hardly wait to finish work so he can spend the rest of his day with . . . Sandra!

Ah, Sandra. At times he thinks he wants to spend the rest of his life with her.

At other times, he isn't sure. . . .

* * * *

The change in Renea began when the new guy came to school. John was pursued—"chased" is a better word—by every girl on campus. But he chose Renea.

Renea likes him very much. In fact, he is the first boy she has ever dated seriously.

Still, she's not sure about any kind of permanent commitment. . . .

* * * *

ARE YOU ONE of the lucky ones? Are you involved in a torrid romance, like Trent or Renea?

Maybe an old flame has reappeared. Or a relationship with a steady you've been going with a long time suddenly took off.

Perhaps you've just met someone new. Or a casual acquaintance is beginning to look like more than that.

Where will this romance go? As a Christian you want God to have first place in everything you do. You don't want your relationship with your current date, or with anyone else, to displease Him in any way. Still, this feels like love!

Or does it?

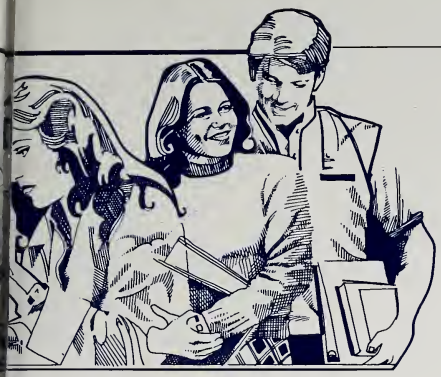
What is love, anyway?

Apparently, the writer of the current hit "What's Love Got to Do With It?" knows nothing about Christian values or scriptural principles.

The Bible says, "Love goes on forever" (1 Corinthians 13:8, *Living Bible*). After other things fail, love—true love—remains.

Now this doesn't necessarily mean that the current feeling you have for your date will always be what it is now. It may increase. It may decline. For sure, it will vacillate.

How can you tell when you are in love? How do you know when it's the real thing? It could be something else. What you're experiencing now may be



What's love got to do with it? Everything! But if you are to know when it's really love, you've got to know when it's not . . .

're Not in Love

—the *thrill of being pursued*

—or the *excitement of conquest* (You have pursued, and won!)

—or the *security* of knowing you won't be without a date on the weekend

—or the *contentment* of knowing you don't have to "prove yourself" over and over

Humans often confuse love with a variety of feelings. If you want to find out whether what you're feeling now is love, begin by discovering what love is *not.* Here are some guidelines to help you:

- You are not in love if you can't understand why you are dating him or her.
- You are not in love if you can't think of a single personality trait your date has you really like.
- You are not in love if there is no mutual respect between the two of you.
- You are not in love if conflict characterizes the major portion of your time together.
- You are not in love just because you feel comfortable enough with your date to drop your defenses.
- You are not in love if the only time you feel close is when the two of you are physically involved.
- You are not in love if you are unwilling or unable to risk disclosing yourself to him or her.
- You are not in love just because you discover your date is emotionally dependent on you and you'd feel guilty cooling off the relationship.
- You are not in love if you are coerced into maintaining the relationship.
- You are not in love if you don't share the same faith and world view.
- You are not in love if you feel uncomfortable talking to God about your relationship with your date.
- You are not in love if you find it impossible to put God first in your love life.

True love, love that lasts, begins and ends with God. Meaningful and enjoyable relationships are ones based on a right relationship with Him. God is love and human love, properly nurtured, grows when both lovers put God first in their lives.

To find the meaning of true love, seek to know God more! □



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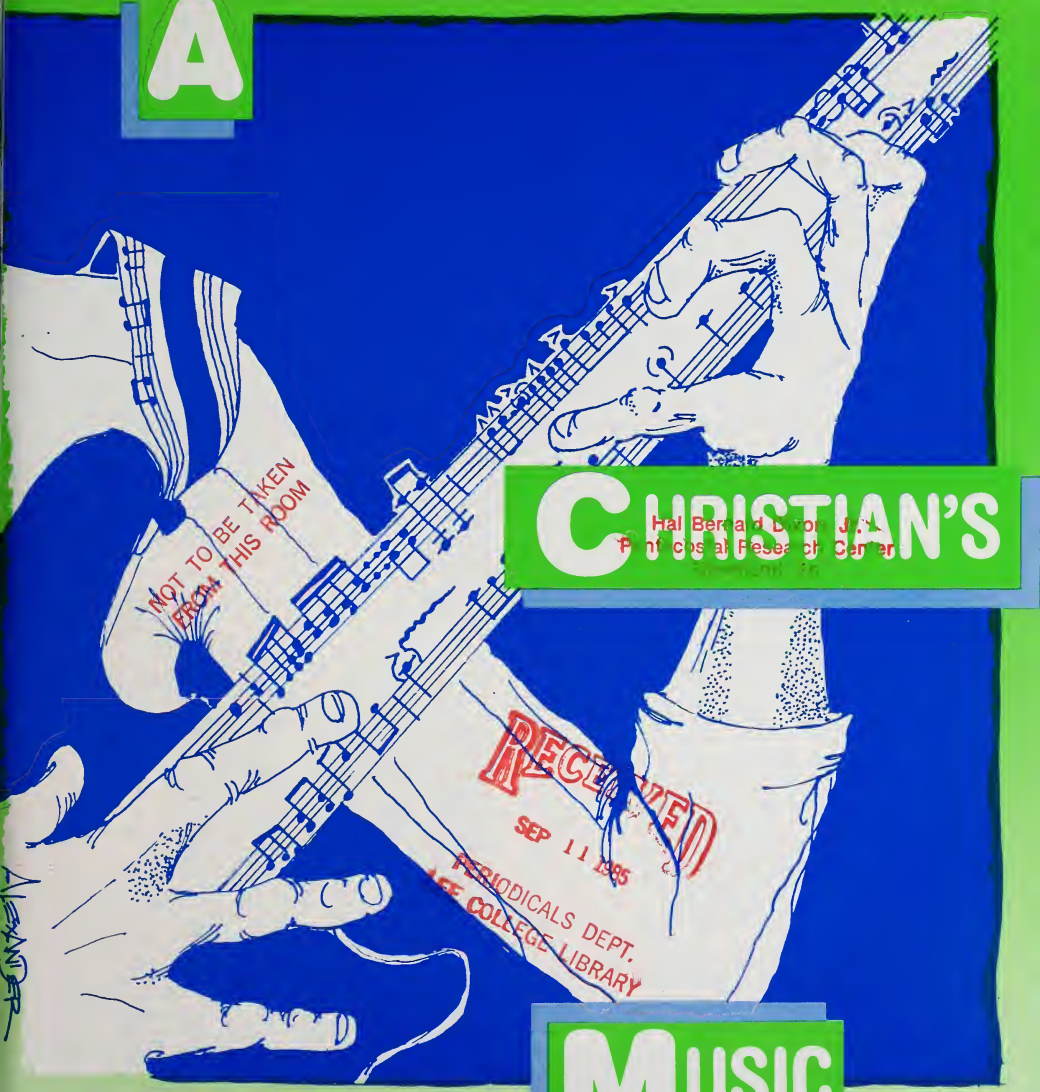
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AUGUST 1985
VOLUME 56, NUMBER 8

Lighted Pathway



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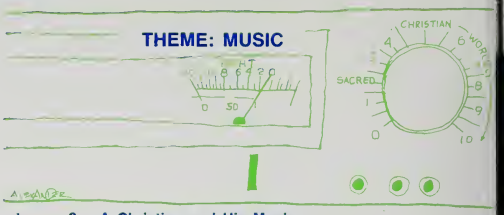
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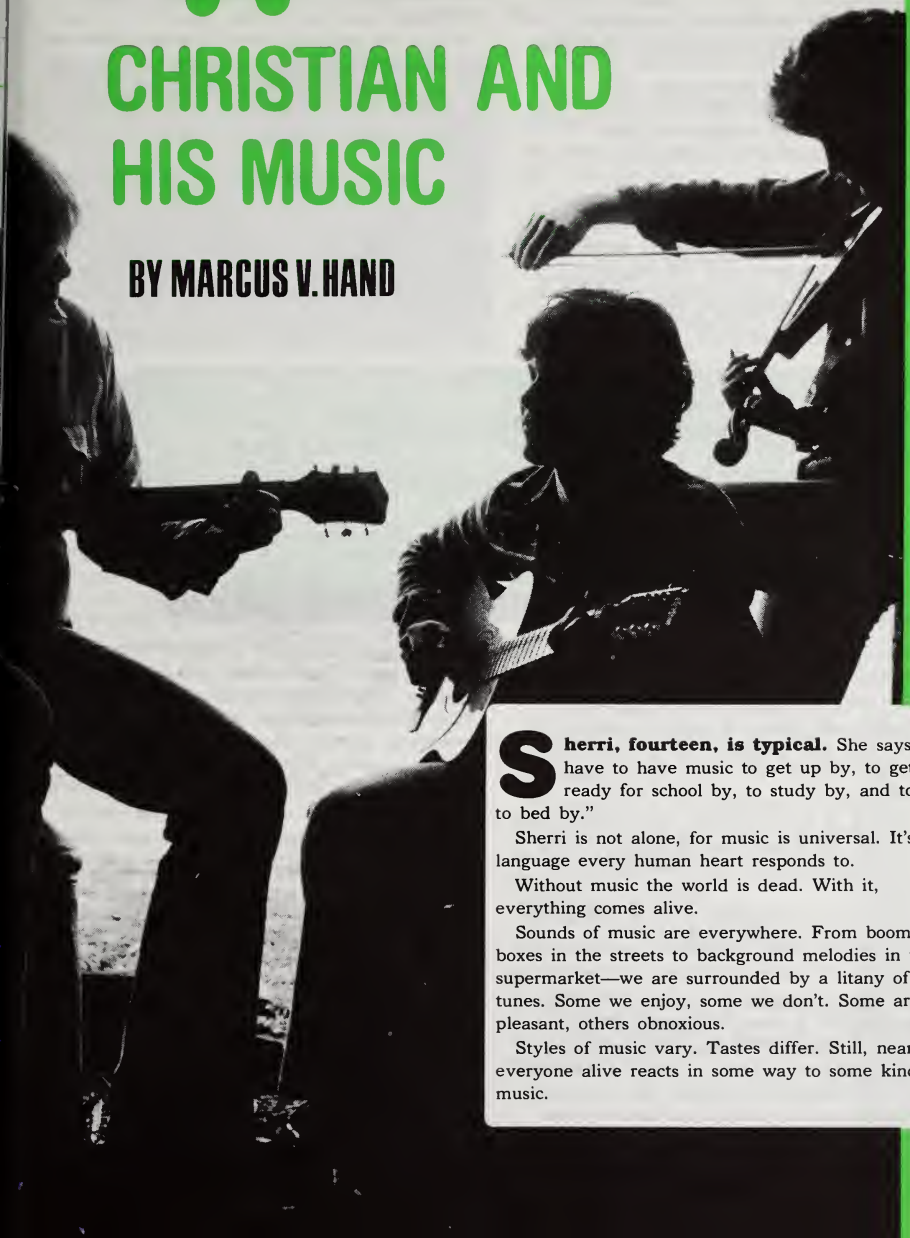
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A CHRISTIAN AND HIS MUSIC

BY MARCUS V. HAND



Is God interested in your music? Lighted Pathway reports on a Church of God youth survey. . .

Sherri, fourteen, is typical. She says, "I have to have music to get up by, to get ready for school by, to study by, and to go to bed by."

Sherri is not alone, for music is universal. It's a language every human heart responds to.

Without music the world is dead. With it, everything comes alive.

Sounds of music are everywhere. From boom boxes in the streets to background melodies in the supermarket—we are surrounded by a litany of tunes. Some we enjoy, some we don't. Some are pleasant, others obnoxious.

Styles of music vary. Tastes differ. Still, nearly everyone alive reacts in some way to some kind of music.

How do you explain this phenomenon? Is it because God has programmed into everything a distinct rhythm, a measured cadence, a certain beat?

Look at creation around you. The passing seasons, decay and renewal in nature, the restless pounding of the surf, the ebb and flow of the tides—these all echo an eternal beat. Even the planets and stars sing through space as they travel predictable paths, their intergalactic songs monitored and recorded by scientists with high-tech radio equipment.

Man himself is the jewel in God's handiwork. He demonstrates, more than anything else, the eternal beat of the Master's rhythmic creation. Listen and you can pick it up. All the major systems of the body work in perfect sync when it is normal and healthy. Blood pulses to every cell at the steady beat of the heart. The respiratory system functions best when breathing is regular and rhythmic. Even our emotions, our mental highs and lows, seem to operate on a regular cycle.

No wonder we respond to rhythm in music! We are made that way. In fact, music can affect the way we feel. Like Sherri, we are lost without "our" music.

On any list of youth priorities, music ranks at or near the top. We sing it, hum it, perform it, and listen to it. Deprive us of most anything except our music.

Since music is so important to us, it follows that our choices of music are important.

What kind of music do Church of God young people listen to? A survey was designed and conducted by Nancy O'Bannon for a curriculum writing assignment. It makes no claim of scientific accuracy; it is merely a sampling. Yet, it covers a good cross section of youth in our denomination.

A total of 104 young people completed the entire questionnaire. They came from five congregations in three widely separated states. They represent small, medium-sized, and large churches.

Two of the participants were nine years old, one was twenty-nine. Most, by far, were in their teens and early twenties. The average age was 16.4 years. Girls outnumbered boys slightly—59 to 45.

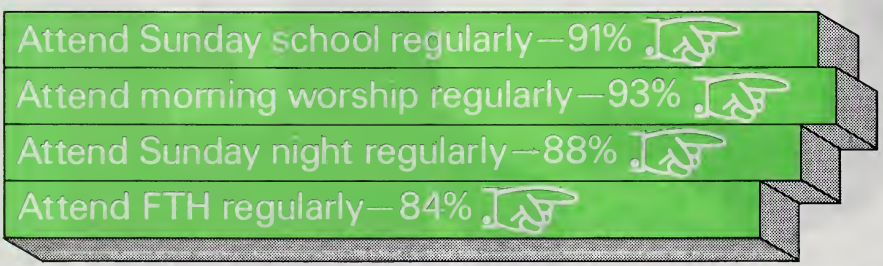
Each respondent was asked, "Are you a Christian?"

- 98% said "Yes"
- 2% said "No"

To the question, "Are you Spirit-filled?"

- 62% said "Yes"
- 38% said "No"

The overwhelming evidence is that the respondents were "church kids." They were not outsiders or unbelievers. A whopping 91 percent attend Sunday school regularly and 93 percent attend morning worship regularly. Nearly nine out of ten attend Sunday night services in their local churches on a steady basis and eight out of ten go to FTH regularly. Older people in the church point with pride to this group and call them "our young people."



More than 87 percent listen to the radio. They spend an average of 4.8 hours per day with the box blasting.

Slightly more than 56 percent listen to albums or tapes on a regular basis. These persons spend an average of 1.49 hours each day listening to their favorite performers.

Only 21 percent watch music television. However, they spend an average of 3.1 hours per day watching music videos.

While 70 percent say they listen to rock music, an equal number also listens to gospel music

regularly. Time spent listening to rock averages 3.12 hours per day; time spent listening to gospel music is only 1.41 hours per day.

The survey asked participants to name their favorite type of music. Most listed more than one. Here are the results.

Rock	70%
Gospel	44%
Country	36%
Jazz	22%
Classical	16%

Those listing rock as a favorite were asked what kind of rock they liked.

Soft rock	54%
Hard rock	21%
Punk	14%
Heavy metal	9%

A question about the volume of Church of God young peoples' music produced a surprising response. Slightly more than 57 percent prefer loud music, while more than 35 percent prefer their music soft. Only 7 percent say they prefer their music medium.

* * * *

Apparently, we are unaccustomed to relating the kind of music we listen to, to our own spirituality. When asked "Have you ever prayed about the kind of music you listen to or buy?" Forty-one percent said "Yes" and 56 percent said "No."

Another question: "Do you think your choice of music is of any significant concern to God?" Nearly two-thirds said yes. Some of the responses:

"Because He is concerned with every part of my life."

"Because what you listen to influences your life."

"Everything we do concerns God."

"The music you listen to becomes a part of your life and the way you think."

"He wants us to listen to music that uplifts and builds us up."

Ninety-five percent of the youth participating answered "Yes" when asked, "Do you find you have the words and music of songs on your mind?"

When asked, "Do you think the music you listen to has any lasting effect on you?" Fifty-six percent answered "Yes" and 44 percent said "No". Some of the responses are:

"Because the music I listen to affects me, whether I realize it or not."

"Because I really enjoy music and music is my life."

"Because the words and meaning of the song stays with you."

A couple of responses from those who answered "No" went like this,

"I just listen to the music and I don't get serious about it."

"It can only affect you if you let it."

On the other hand, some of those who agreed that music does have a lasting effect on you said,

"The music I listened to as a child affected me and still does."

"Music is a powerful agent on emotions."

Perhaps you never thought of it before, but what you listen to is important to God. Take another look at your record collection. Reassess the stations you regularly listen to. A computer saying is, "Garbage in: garbage out." Here are some guidelines.

1. **Be as careful about what goes into your mind as you are about what goes into your body.** You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. He will protect you from things over which you have no control. However, you must take care about deliberately putting things into your mind which you know would not be pleasing to God.

2. **Pray about your music.** Since music is such an important part of your life you should spend time in prayer concerning the kind of music you listen to.

3. **Remember the injunction of holy Scripture.** "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17, *NIV*).

4. **If you've been listening to the wrong kind of music, consider some alternatives.** Eliminate the music that is wrong. Music is available that glorifies God, builds you up, and is just as pleasing emotionally and aesthetically, as any of Satan's music. Don't stop short of God's best for you! □

RATE YOUR MUSICAL AWARENESS

A checklist to involve you in measuring the musical tastes of your youth group. . . .

1. The most popular radio stations among kids in your youth group are: _____

_____

2. Each day individuals in your group average listening to these stations _____ hours.

3. Check the nonreligious musical styles that are dominant in the musical tastes of your youth group.

Pop _____	Punk _____
Rock _____	Heavy Metal _____
Soul _____	Classical _____
R & B _____	Jazz _____

4. Check the religious musical styles that are dominant in the musical taste of your youth group.

Old hymns _____	Country gospel _____
Modern hymns _____	Southern quartet _____
Anthems _____	Contemporary gospel _____
Convention gospel _____	Musicals _____
Praise choruses _____	Black gospel _____

5. In your group, the three most popular secular performers are:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

6. Your three favorite Christian performers are:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

7. List some of the factors that elicit your group's approval for an artist. (For example, dress, personality, lyrics, and so forth.) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

8. Is there a difference in the musical tastes of girls and boys in your group?

Yes_____ No_____

9. List some artists your youth group recommends.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

10. Can you readily find the albums and tapes of good Christian musicians?

Yes_____ No_____

11. Does your youth group have access to a good quality tape player?

Yes_____ No_____

12. List three top 40 songs that offer positive value or ask important questions about life.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Note: Send a copy of your Musical Awareness Survey to:

Lighted Pathway
1080 Montgomery Avenue
Cleveland, TN 37311

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CRUSADE AGAINST PORN ROCK

Increasingly more youth are joining the protest against audio pornography. Here's how you can help unclutter the airwaves. . . .

CYNDI LAUPER is described as an "electrified cartoon of a redhead careering through a kooky party," by *Newsweek* magazine. The same issue calls Madonna "a tarted-up floozy flirting in a gondola."

Shrill and overbearing, popular music today is much like its stars. It screams, thunders, pulsates, and shrieks. Groups like Cheap Trick, the Boomtown Rats, the Sex Pistols, Motley Crue, the Destroyers, AC/DC, Def Leppard, Twisted Sister, and others with self-descriptive names seem intent on smashing, hammering, and clobbering their messages into the minds of listeners. Works of stars like Van Halen and Prince are known for their blatant sexual content.

Violent obscenity is fashionable. Brutal erotica is idolized. It is held up not only as an alternative, but as a fashionable and preferred way of life. It causes many youths to withdraw and detach themselves from reality. They retreat into fantasies, delusions, and hallucinations. The real world is shut out and theirs is a kind of numbed existence.

Decent kids, including even non-Christian ones, are turning away from the lurid lyrics of porn rock. It should be pointed



out, however, that it's more than just the young people buying this music. A survey cited in the *New York Times* shows that of all the music sold in the United States,

- 29 percent is bought by persons age 35 and over
- 25 percent is bought by persons age 25 to 34
- 26 percent is bought by persons age 20 to 24
- 15 percent is bought by persons age 15 to 19
- 5 percent is bought by persons age 10 to 14

Sickening trends espoused by certain artists, however, are being met with revulsion. Things are beginning to happen. On May 13, 1985, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) sent a letter to 608 radio and television broadcast groups warning that "the lyrics of some recent rock records and the tone of their related videos are fast becoming a matter of public debate." This was followed on May 31 by a letter to 45 record companies, asking them to provide copies of lyrics for songs sent to broadcasters.

In its June 15 issue, *Billboard* magazine termed the NAB letter "unprecedented."

Meanwhile, the National Parent-Teacher Association has gone on record expressing public concern about some songs and have asked for warning labels to be provided on some albums. The wives of some of the senators in Washington have mounted a crusade against porn rock.

Perhaps you and/or your youth group want to get involved. Here's how.

1. **Work through your local radio station.** It is the glue that holds the rock music world together. Local stations play the records. Kids buy the records they play. Leverage with local stations involves sponsors and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

When an obscene or indecent song is played on the local station, write a letter to

Mr. Mark Fowler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The FCC has the power to enforce U.S. Criminal Code Title 18, Section 1464, which reads, "Whoever utters any obscene, indecent, or profane language by means of radio communication shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years or both."

Be specific. Give the call letters of the station, along with address, name of the song, and time when it was played. Tell precisely what you object to and why.

2. **Send a letter from your youth group to congress.** After everyone signs it, send it to congresspersons from your area, and to

Subcommittee on Communications
Senate Commerce Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

3. **Let sponsors and advertisers know how you feel.** Many sponsors have no idea what is contained in the songs played on local stations. A good strategy is to get a copy of the lyrics of songs pushing drugs, sexual anarchy and evil and take it to the local sponsors. Visit the managers of the local automobile dealer, furniture store, gas station, and so forth, who advertise on the rock station or program. Show them the lyrics of the songs they are helping to keep on the airwaves. Often you will find a willing ear. If not, you may find that you don't need to buy their products. If this is the case, tell them.

To contact national sponsors, get an address list from

The Target List
P.O. Box 1039
Palo Alto, CA 94302

Televison Sponsors Cross-Reference Directory
Everglades Publishing Co.
P.O. Box Q
Everglades, FL 33929

4. **Write to the record companies.** Warner Brothers and CBS Records continue to produce rock's worst. Their addresses are

Warner Brothers Records
3300 Warner Boulevard
Burbank, CA 91510

CBS Records
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019

Often, this kind of action is more effective in changing what you hear, than record burnings or other forms of protest. □

nbelievably talented, Rodney struggles with the temptation to join a local rock group. . . .



OUT OF TUNE

BY JULIE NEW WHEELER

FRAGMENTS OF CONVERSATION and the clatter of locker doors echo in the hall of Central High. Rodney whistles as he shoves books into his locker. *Wait till Crystal hears the news,* he thinks.

A plaque hangs on the metal door. Rodney runs his fingers over the dusty engraving: FIRST PLACE-CENTRAL HIGH TALENT SHOW. He grins.

Imagine, Michael remembering him from the competition last spring.

"Rodney!" a female voice calls. "What's this about the Vipers asking you to be their keyboard player?"

The small, sandy haired boy closes the locker and turns to face a neatly dressed redhead. "Hi, Crystal. News sure travels fast."

"Well," Crystal demands, "did *the* Michael Mixon, the one with two hit records, really ask you to join his group?"

Michael, leader of the area's hottest rock group, had swaggered into algebra class waving a visitor's pass. No one was more surprised than Rodney when Michael asked to speak to him.

"Michael wants me to play with the Vipers at the school dance next weekend," Rodney explains. "Sort of a trial appearance. If I fit in okay, I might become a permanent member of the group."

Crystal frowns. "Rodney, how can you fit in? You know the kind of songs they sing. And you don't drink or smoke. Or go to dances."

"Crystal, this is my big break," Rodney protests. "I'll never have a music career playing 'Amazing Grace' for the junior choir."

"But what about your testimony?" Crystal argues.

"Look, this can be a great opportunity to witness." Rodney stops and looks earnestly at Crystal. "Joining the Vipers doesn't mean I'm going to do drugs and quit church."

"I hope you're right. Good luck," she says, walking away. Rodney shakes his head. Although they aren't dating, Crystal is special. He wants to impress her.

Rodney threads his way past chatting students. Cliques! They make him feel invisible. Most people have forgotten about the talent show. He's just another face in the senior section of the yearbook.

Not anymore, Rodney thinks, opening the car door and sitting down. He cranks the motor and inserts a cassette into the tape deck. Guitars jangle over a driving drumbeat. Lyrics of hopelessness and despair remind Rodney of the newspaper review he read last night. The Vipers wear black hooded capes at their concerts, it said, and perform bizarre special effects.

Probably all show biz, Rodney thinks. Driving home, he wonders what practice will be like.

* * * *

Later, Rodney knocks nervously on Michael's door. It swings open, slinging the stench of marijuana, incense, and beer into Rodney's face. He forces himself to smile at the familiar girl leaning on the door.

"Hi, Rodney," she says, over a background of squealing guitars. "I'm Melanie. Michael's sister." Rodney remembers her from the talent show.

"They're in the basement." Melanie motions to the steps behind her.

Rodney goes downstairs, the smoke nearly choking him. Throbbing, strident music fills his ears. He hesitates at the door. Inside, Michael is pressing an odd-shaped cigarette to his lips.

What am I doing here? Rodney wonders, his heart pounding wildly. He fights the impulse to run. *If I run away, what will Melanie think? She'll tell everyone at school. This is my big chance for fame!*

The musicians stop playing. Rodney holds his breath. Michael shakes his long, braided hair and passes the cigarette to a man beside him. In a few moments, Michael looks up and spots Rodney.

"I didn't think you'd show, Sunday boy," he drawls. "Melanie says you're quite a saint at school. I guess you don't want any grass." He reached for a can of beer on the top of the keyboard. "Thirsty?"

"N-no thanks," Rodney stammers.

Michael's dark eyes bore into Rodney's. "I normally don't use kids in the group. For one thing, they can't get in the clubs. But you'll be old enough soon." Michael pauses, tilting the can to his mouth. "I play the keyboard myself, you know. But I'd like to play more guitar."

Self-consciously, Rodney glances at the other members of the group. Their faces are expressionless as Michael introduces them. *They don't believe I'm any good,* Rodney thinks. He considers blundering through the music so badly the Vipers won't want him. *No, everyone at school knows I'm talented.*

"Here's the music." Michael stuffs a folder into his hand. "Let's get started."

To Rodney's surprise, the music is simple. He concentrates on playing the score in front of him and tries to ignore the marijuana smoke around him.

After a few hours Michael announces, "We'll stop for tonight. Be here tomorrow at ten."

Rodney almost tells them he is

going to church, but Michael's hand on his shoulder stops him.

"Sunday boy, I'm counting on you. You'll be here, won't you?"

Rodney nods feebly.

* * * *

Next morning, Rodney feels less out of place. Although everyone is drinking, no one offers him any. The thrill of playing with a well-known group deadens his guilt over skipping church. The session goes by quickly.

Monday morning at school Rodney enjoys a celebrity's status. Someone from the school paper interviews him. Five girls sit with him at lunch. Everywhere he goes, people say, "Heard you're playing at the dance. Wow!"

In the back of his mind, Rodney can still hear Crystal saying "What about your testimony?" He feels shame.

It's too late now, he rationalizes. *The whole school knows I'm performing at the dance. There's no way to back out!*

Rodney has little time to worry. Nightly practice keeps him so busy he hardly has time for homework. He hates the Vipers' lifestyle, but being part of the group has its compensations. Still, when Rodney falls into bed at night, he feels empty and out of tune with God.

By Thursday Rodney is tiring of the constant attention at school. To top it off, a girl in biology embarrasses him in front of the whole class.

"Bet the Vipers'll throw some bash this weekend," she remarks loudly. "I used to think you were too churchy to party."

Rodney's face reddens. "If you mean drinking or taking drugs then I'm still too churchy."

She laughs a knowing laugh. "Yeah, sure. Michael Mixon and his gang don't drink Kool-Aid. You're not fooling me."

Rodney prays silently that his classmates believe him. Still, he can't blame them for thinking the worst.

Thursday night after practice Michael gives him a black cape. "Wear this tomorrow night," he says. "We'll meet at the gym."

Rodney wants to shout, "I'm not coming," but the words freeze in his throat.

"You're uptight, kid." Michael has noticed. "Sure you don't want something to relax?"

"No thanks," Rodney manages to say, hurrying to the car.

When he gets home, Rodney tried on the cape. In the mirror, he attempts to visualize the chalky makeup that will cover his face. He shudders, remembering the gruesome, special effects that he's practiced all week. The cape feels heavy on his shoulders. Its black folds droop to his ankles. With a jerk, Rodney yanks off the cape and watches it crumple to the floor.

Mumbling a hasty prayer, he turns off the light and goes to bed.

* * * *

Excitement crests in school the next day. People Rodney doesn't know ask him about the Vipers and the dance. He smiles politely and answers their questions. Inside, he feels lonely and barren.

The more attention he receives, the more phony he feels.

I've let Crystal down, he thinks. *Most of all, I've let God down.*

After school Crystal waits by the car. "Excited about tonight?" she asks as he slides in and closes the door.

"Yeah." Rodney looks away.

"I've been praying for you, Rodney."

"Thanks. Look, I've got to run." Rodney starts the car. Disappointment masks Crystal's face as he drives away.

Rodney glances at the cape beside him. How did he get in this mess? He hasn't been so unhappy since he became a Christian. Suddenly, Rodney doesn't care if he ever becomes famous or popular.

Determination seizes him. He drives to Michael's house. Tires squeal as he stops the car. He grabs the cape, jumps out, knocks on the door.

A bleary-eyed Michael answers. "We're meeting at the gym, Sunday boy."

"You're meeting at the gym," Rodney corrects him. "I quit. Being a Christian and a Viper doesn't mix. I should have said no when you first asked me. Here's your cape."

Michael's face twists into a sneer. "Melanie said you'd do this. Get out of here, you fanatic!" He seizes the cape and slams the door.

Back in the car, waves of relief wash over Rodney. As he drives home he prays, unloading the guilt and worry of the past week. The peace is indescribable. God has a place for him to use his talent, he realizes. Popularity and fame can never compete with the joy of getting rid of your guilt and finding your place in God's kingdom!

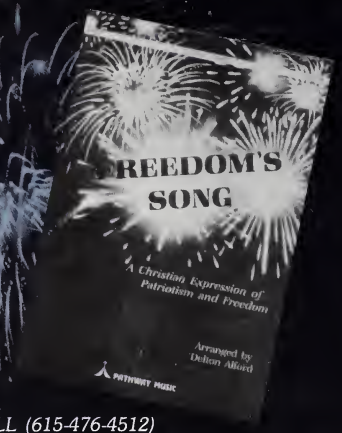
He hurries to call Crystal. A melody sings in his heart. □

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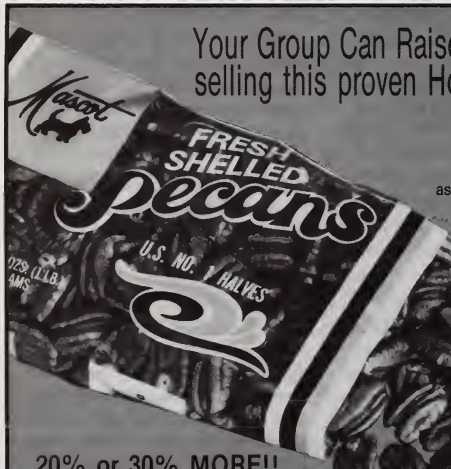
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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

YOU AND YOUR MUSIC



BY NANCY O'BANNON

The Bible gives us guidance for everything in life, right? Okay. So what does the Bible say about the music we listen to and sing? Before we look into the Word, let's do a quick self-examination.

- What are some of the major themes of rock music? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

- What are some of the major themes of country music? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

- I spend approximately _____ hours a day listening to gospel music.
- I spend approximately _____ hours a day listening to country music.
- I spend approximately _____ hours a day listening to top 40 music.
- I spend approximately _____ hours a day listening to hard rock.
- What does this tell me about my priorities?

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?



Pop Country			
Soft Rock			
Quartet gospel			
New Wave			
Bluegrass			
Black gospel			
Latin music			
"Long-haired" classical			
Traditional hymns			
Heavy metal			
Top 40			
Contemporary gospel			
Traditional country			
"Pop" or light classical			
Sound tracks and show tunes			
Praise and scripture choruses			
Jazz			
R and B			
Reggae			
Traditional gospel			
Hard rock			
Punk			

Read Romans 12:1, 2

1. How does *verse 1* apply to the kind of music you listen to? _____

2. *Verse 2* says that if we want to please God and do His will, we must renew our minds. List five ways we can renew our minds.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

3. Does the kind of music you put in your mind matter to you? to God? Why? _____

4. List at least ten titles of, or prominent phrases in, some of the more popular songs: _____

5. Notice how certain phrases stick in your subconscious, even when you don't consciously think about it.

6. We remember words better when they are in rhythm and rhyme. If you are creative, say the words in Proverbs 1:8-16 to a rap beat.

7. *Philippians 4:8* tells us some things that should go into a Christian's mind. From the list in Exercise 4, tell which category each song or phrase can comfortably fit in.

Things that are

true _____

noble _____

right _____

pure _____

lovely _____

admirable _____

excellent _____

praiseworthy _____

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

LOOK IN THE WORD (Use NIV)



LOOK AT MUSIC VIDEOS

Have some of the more creative and uninhibited members of your group act out a favorite music video. Popular music videos make an important philosophical statement. They are created so the words of the song and the action on the video do not match. This gives the impression that it doesn't matter if words and action don't relate. Life doesn't make sense either, music videos are saying; so just go for the experience.

Is this philosophy compatible with the Christian's? Discuss why.

_____

_____

_____

_____

What does Psalm 101:1-4 have to say about your music? _____

_____

_____

Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23

1. This passage shows how music can affect a person. Tell of a time when music had a powerful effect on you or someone you know.

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Note *verses 16* and *23*. Music made the king feel _____better; _____worse. (Check the correct answer.)

3. The name of the musician was _____.

4. List the characteristics of this musician *verse 18*.

_____

_____

_____

5. His most important qualifications were "he knows how to play" and "the Lord is with him." Discuss "skill" and "anointing" as they apply to Christian musicians.

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE YOUR MUSIC?

Guidelines are needed for evaluating the music you listen to. Some good ones given by David Horton are:

Lyrics	What is the message of the text? Is it consistent with biblical Christianity?	1 Timothy 6:3, 4 "If anyone tries to teach some doctrinal novelty and does not follow sound teaching (which we base on our Lord Jesus Christ's own words and which leads to Christ-like living), then he is a conceited idiot!"
Purpose	What is the purpose of the music? Do the words encourage you to live better or worse?	1 John 4:1 "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God."
Associations	Is the music associated with things that would hinder a Christian's testimony? Does the music cause you to think immoral things?	Romans 13:14 "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."
Performers	Who are the performers? What is their lifestyle? What is their spiritual point of view?	Matthew 7:16, 17 "By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."

TEEN TALENT

GO FOR IT!







BY JUNUS FULBRIGHT

Church of God youth are movers and shakers!

You want action, adventure, thrills and spills. You expect excitement and fulfillment.

If this describes you, know that Teen Talent was developed with you in mind. Dreams, hopes, loneliness, frustrations, sorrows, tears, doubts, temptations—all of these emotions are experienced during the process of Teen Talent.

Teen Talent provides you opportunities to:

- *use your talent and ability for the Lord*
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- *share with others who have similar goals, backgrounds, and interests*
- *mature in relationships with others*
- *learn the self-discipline of balancing your personal desires with the realities of preparation for competition*

The author is Assistant General Director of Youth and Christian Education.

- *grow spiritually as you prepare and experience the competition process*
- *be recognized by your peers for your ability*
- *set a goal of performance and then achieve it*
- *win a scholarship to a Church of God college*

Creativity is productive; it is mind-stretching. **Teen Talent prepares a creative person for service.** Once you begin developing your potential for doing something well, the Lord can use you more effectively. Teen Talent is designed to help you become the most effective person possible for Christ.

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—*to discover new heights of personal expression*

—*to experience the joy of accomplishment and fulfillment*

Competition in the five divisions involve 30 different categories and 44 areas of participation.

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10. Mixed Media

BIBLE DIVISION

1. Bible Reading
2. Bible Teaching
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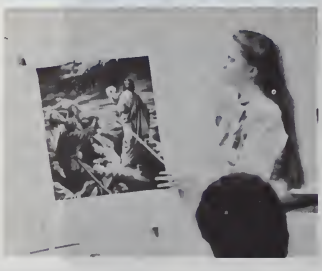
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3. Small Group (long)
4. Large Group
5. Music Drama

MUSIC DIVISION

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   (b) Female
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3. Instrumental Solo—Keyboard
   (a) Piano
   (b) Organ
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   (a) Brass
   (b) Woodwind
   (c) Strings (bowed)
   (d) Strings (plucked)
   (e) Percussion: Definite Pitch
   (f) Percussion: Indefinite Pitch
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   (a) Small Instrumental Ensemble (2 to 8 players)
   (b) Large Instrumental Ensemble (9 or more players)
   (c) Handbells
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   (a) Small Choir (13 to 30 singers)
   (b) Large Choir (31 or more singers)
7. Music Composition
   (a) Song Writing
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For further information, contact your district youth director, your state director of youth and Christian education, or *Teen Talent, Box 2430, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. Telephone (615) 472-3361, extension 275.*



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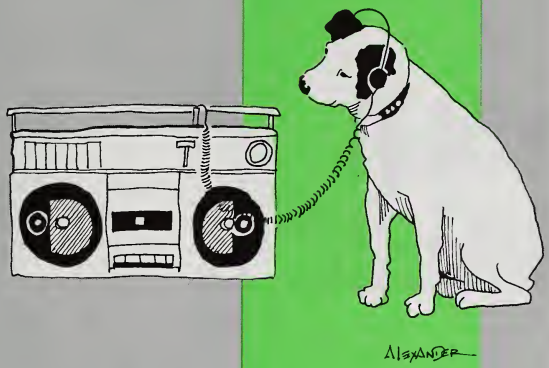
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Go for it! Talk to your pastor or youth leader about enrolling in Teen Talent. Decide today that you will use your talents for the glory of God. □

TOP 10 GOSPEL FAVORITES

In a survey of Pathway Bookstores, *Lighted Pathway* compiled this listing of top best sellers.

1. **Unguarded**
   Amy Grant/Myrrh
2. **Songs from the Heart**
   Sandi Patti/Impact
3. **Comin' On Strong**
   Carman/Myrrh
4. **Lift the Roof Off**
   The Hinsons/Calvary
5. **Medals**
   Russ Taff/Myrrh
6. **Living Waters**
   Jimmy Swaggart/Jim
7. **Beat the System**
   Petra/Star Song
8. **Power of Praise**
   Phil Driscoll/Sparrow
9. **Sheep in Wolves Clothing**
   Mylon LeFevre/Word
10. **More than Wonderful**
    Sandi Patti/Impact



Others: **Together,** *The Hemphills/Benson*
Some A Dat, *Carman/CBS*
Broken Heart, *Mylon LeFevre/Word*
Family Band, *Rusty Goodman/Word*

CHRISTIAN VIDEOS

Here is a listing of the most popular videos rented in July in Pathway Bookstores.

1. **The Hiding Place**
2. **Age to Age**
   Amy Grant
3. **Live Concert**
   Sandi Patti
4. **Circle of Love**
   Amy Grant
5. **Super Book** □



YOUR MUSIC REVEALS YOU

BY GRADY MURPHY

The music you choose can say a lot about your relationship with God. What is your music saying about you?

AT THE BOOKSTORE YOU can find books on body language, how to dress right, and how to send the right signals; as well as helps to communicate what you mean more clearly. These facets of our lives indicate to God and to others our philosophy and what we think is important in life.

Likewise, the music we participate in or choose to listen to sends out messages to the people around us and, more importantly, to God! Our lives should express worship that inspires or changes men's natures and causes them to desire a better and more meaningful life of Christian commitment and service.

Consider the fact that wherever you find worship of God, you find music involved. Music and worship go together because they are similar.

- Both are active and ongoing! Like music, worship does not stand still. Both are headed in a particular direction. They have a starting point and a destination, as from us to God.
- Both are for one time and one place. Once the music or the worship has stopped, it is gone. It must be created again in a different set of circumstances.
- Both are for personal participation or group involvement!
- Both are creative! As you are involved in music and worship, you interject yourself into them. Thus, both are a great deal different, in some way, than the first time you were involved in music or worship.
- Both are communication of ideals and attitudes! The language of music is a vehicle of an individual's expression. Worship is only worship when it becomes an expression of adoration from man to God.

The Bible gives an example of music in worship in 2 Chronicles 5:11-14: *And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.*

Notice several things.

1. The musicians were priests or holy servants of God set apart to worship Him through music.

2. They had prepared themselves and were skilled. They all knew how and what to sing and play.

3. They were in place; they were prepared. Their preparation was *physical,* they were skilled in playing. Their preparation was *mental,* they knew the music and the message. Their preparation was *spiritual,* they united their emotions and wills.

4. They gave the best of themselves in a sacrifice of praise. The result of preparation, performance and praise was God's overshadowing presence filling the temple and accepting their worship.

God deserves our best in music worship. If you are a performer be prepared to give of yourself in practice and rehearsal. Be prepared to receive any instruction that will make your music better. Be prepared to serve in any way that will make a better sacrifice of praise.

Grady Murphy is Minister of Music at North Cleveland Church of God.

Be active in your church service. Worship God through music in your everyday life, whether listening or performing.

Reach out to your community by taking them the gospel in song.

Be active in your school's musical training programs so that you can apply your musical skills to worship through music.

God himself uses music as a vehicle of praise. The Father will sing with joy at the restoration of Israel (Zephaniah 3:17). God the Son sang with His disciples after He instituted the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:30). God the Holy Spirit sings within the hearts of His children (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Remember, worship is expressed in your actions and attitudes all day long. Every day!

What kind of message does the music you surround yourself with communicate? Rebellion? Cruelty? Selfishness? Lust? Greed? Despair?

Or does it sound out a message of love. Joy. Hope. Peace. Understanding.

I. E. Reynolds says, "If the Bible makes so much of [music], you cannot afford to touch it lightly. If music has such universal appeal, it means you have an approach to every heart. If it is the story of a burdened heart, you are a messenger of rest to all that are weary. If it inspires and teaches, you are an uplifter and teacher for all to whom your music speaks."

Consider the fact that all some people know about you is your music. What is it saying? ☐

CHILDREN RAISE FUNDS TO BUILD CHURCH



In Boonesboro, Maryland, 24 children raised money to build a church to the glory of God.

The theme of our stewardship drive was "Together in Love." Just past the halfway point it became evident that we had overlooked a source of enthusiasm and energy by not including the children. After all, they are not wage earners and therefore were not a source of pledged money.

The summer months were coming. The youngsters would be out of school and away from the daily routine of systematic learning environments. So we decided to do something about it.

A plan was devised and presented to the church congregation. It was received with enthusiasm and soon the young people of Boonesboro Church of God were "reading to build for God!"

The project would do two things: It would involve young children in the building program and it would give them the opportunity to practice reading and maintain those skills during the summer months. We asked parents to choose books and reading materials appropriate to the child's reading level. Parents would listen attentively to their child read for a period of up to 15 minutes a day for the project. Another commitment on the part of the parents was to pay their child a penny for each minute of reading and to sign the coupon verifying the time spent reading each day.

Twenty-four children became involved during the eight weeks. They committed themselves to read for God and signed a large poster hanging on the wall in a conspicuous place in the church. Coupons recording reading time were placed in a collection box in the church vestibule.

Even the needs of nonreaders were considered. For these children we asked the parent to reverse the procedure and read to them. Of course, the benefits reaped from reading *to youngsters are as important as those of the older children actually practicing their reading skills.*

By the end of the eight-week period we'd accumulated approximately 18,000 minutes of reading by the children. □



JOHN WALLACE II—ACHIEVER

John C. Wallace II, of Darden City, Alabama, was named a 1985 National Award winner in basketball by the United States Achievement Academy.

Son of the Reverend and Mrs. Thomas R. Jacobs, John is a student at Tabernacle Christian School. He was nominated for the USAA award by Robin Mears, principal, and John Bohin, coach.

Each year the United States Achievement Academy selects youth from across the nation for special honor. The criteria for selection includes academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, dependability, and recommendations from a teacher or director. □

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Continued from page 27

type of singing can be accomplished through performance of musical settings of the psalms as they actually appear in the various translated versions of the Bible with rather free musical rhythm and accent. Also, they may be sung in the metrical or rhymed versions of the psalms as was the practice of the reformers."

An example of a musical psalm is "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Sometimes called a hymn, it is actually a paraphrase of Psalm 46 set to music by Martin Luther.

A **hymn** is a song of praise and adoration usually sung and directed to God. Traditional hymns have endured the test of time. "The hymn is a musical and textual expression of man's ideas and concepts of Scripture and doctrine usually addressed and sung to God as a means of communion with him," says Dr. Alford, director of Music at Pathway Press. Metrical in style, hymns are "dignified and majestic in character, with an emphasis on good poetry and music."

The third type song recommended by Paul to the church is the **gospel or spiritual song.** "The first Christians realized a need for a new form of expression of the wonderful joy they had found in Christ and in the new way of living. Likewise, Pentecostals of the twentieth century have made great use of the gospel song to express the joys and hopes of the life found in Christ as well as to express and testify of strength that can be gained through a life directed by the Holy Spirit" (Alford).

Gospel songs record experiences and give testimonies. They are intimate expressions based usually on something which happened inside you. Let's take a closer look at them.

* * * *

Certain myths about what is right and wrong with gospel songs circulate widely.

Myth #1—It's bad if it's contemporary. This is nonsense! No less than nine different Scripture references talk about singing a new song. "The Holy Spirit can and does inspire songwriters today to write songs of great spiritual value that can be used in the worship service as effectively as any other type of music. All good old hymns were once simply new songs striving for acceptance, recognition, and use" (Alford).

Being up-to-date or contemporary, in itself, does not make a song or a group good or bad.

Myth #2—Music is bad if it has a strong beat. All music has a beat. Thirty years ago Pentecostals were known for their rousing renditions of songs like "Meeting in the Air" and "Keep on the Firing Line." The beat was sometimes more obvious than the harmony or melody. A pronounced beat or rhythm pattern similar in style to another kind of music does not make a song "bad."

Beat is necessary in music; but it should never overpower the melody line or distort the harmony. The beat helps the song move at an even pace and keeps the notes in place. Music cannot exist without a beat but music does not exist for the beat.

Myth #3—Music is bad if it's loud. The Scriptures say, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise" (Psalm 98:4). Your taste may run to softer, more mellow music but loud music does not offend the ears of God.

Noise for the sake of loudness, however, is counter-productive. Think of others, as well as of your own, aural safety. Playing music so loudly it hurts the eardrums of listeners hardly qualifies as making a joyful noise unto the Lord! Does the volume disturb others? Is it appropriate for the occasion or purpose?

Myth #4—Music is bad if others cannot understand the message, or words. Some music

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Continued from page 23

is written to be played and not sung. Some of the great, soaring music of the masters inspire with awe, yet, they have never had words.

When singing, however, it is important to be understood. Never forget the purpose of your music. If you are leading in worship, your testimony, your message is lost when others cannot understand your words.

Musical instruments have a definite place in worship. The Bible speaks of many instruments praising God and I have no doubt it would have mentioned pianos, even synthesizers, had they been in existence then.

* * * *

In selecting your music and in singing in worship, here are some guidelines.

1. Think of the song you are singing. Who is the author? Does he or she minister the Word of God through the music?

What is the purpose of the song? Was it written to be a hit, or written to glorify God?

What is the message of the song? Is it scripturally based? Is it theologically sound? Is it in harmony with biblical truth?

What is the function of the song? Is it addressed to others, or to God? Both audiences are appropriate.

2. Think of the people who are hearing you. It does no good to try to share Christ when your listeners are hostile to your style or mode of music. They can't hear what you're singing because they are turned off by "how" you are singing.

To be effective music must be culturally acceptable. Know your audience. Balance carefully the physical, intellectual, and emotional, while avoiding the sentimental. A worship service is not the time or place to impose your taste in music on someone else.

3. Think of the total message you are communicating. To worship and glorify God is your first motive. Other motives should come into play, however, as you begin to offer music in public. Beyond the words your demeanor, your whole performance, says something to others. Whether you are a "designated" part of a program or a part of the audience, you make a statement in your worship.

Sing heartily! Make each occasion your most meaningful performance. Be genuinely creative without being arrogant and without apologizing. Strive to express worship to God in ways that share His love and grace to those around you.

You want to sing timely tunes that are up to date; but there are some older standards that are far from being out of date. If you neglect psalms and traditional hymns you rob yourself and those around you of the historical heritage of praise to God.

On the other hand, to neglect the contemporary gospel song is to miss a spontaneity that can lift you from the routine of boring worship and strengthen your relationship with God.

Avoid getting stuck in a rut! Use different kinds of music. Select all of it in holy taste.

Music edifies the church and builds believers as it glorifies God. □

Take Five

A DAILY BIBLE READING ABOUT MUSIC

August 1—Genesis 4:18-21
August 2—Exodus 15:1-18
August 3—Exodus 32:17, 18
August 4—1 Samuel 16:17-23
August 5—1 Samuel 18:6-8
August 6—2 Samuel 22:47-51
August 7—2 Chronicles 5:11-14
August 8—2 Chronicles 20:20-22
August 9—Psalm 33:1-5
August 10—Psalm 68:24-26
August 11—Psalm 81:1-7
August 12—Psalm 91:1-5
August 13—Psalm 98:1-4
August 14—Psalm 98:5-9
August 15—Psalm 105:1-7
August 16—Psalm 137:1-6
August 17—Psalm 144:9-11
August 18—Psalm 149:1-4
August 19—Psalm 149:5-9
August 20—Psalm 150:1-6
August 21—Proverbs 29:6-11
August 22—Isaiah 30:29, 30
August 23—Matthew 11:15-19
August 24—Mark 14:22-26
August 25—Luke 7:29-35
August 26—Ephesians 5:18-21
August 27—Colossians 3:12-17
August 28—Revelation 5:9-14
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LIGHTED PATHWAY SURVEY

Back to School

Share with us your thoughts about school. If we receive them in time, your thoughts will be a part of the results poll printed in September.

1. What grade will you be in this fall? _____

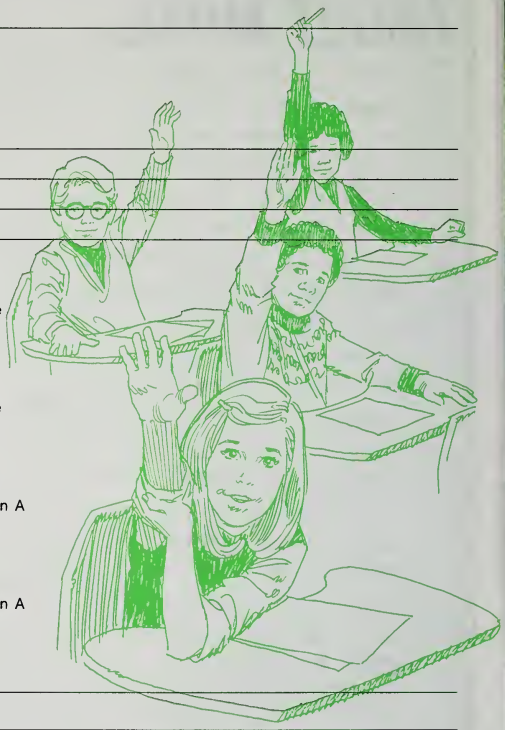
2. Which school activities will you participate in this year?
   - _____A sport
   - _____Yearbook
   - _____Newspaper
   - _____School play
   - _____Band
   - _____Chorus

Clubs (please list which ones) _____

_____

Other _____

_____



3. What's your favorite school subject?
   - _____Math
   - _____Science
   - _____Language arts
   - _____Social studies
   - _____Foreign language
   - _____Other

4. What's your least favorite school subject?
   - _____Math
   - _____Science
   - _____Language arts
   - _____Social studies
   - _____Foreign language
   - _____Other

5. How important are good grades to you?
   - _____Extremely important
   - _____Important, but I don't get upset when I don't make an A
   - _____No big deal

6. How important are good grades to your parents?
   - _____Extremely important
   - _____Important, but I don't get upset when I don't make an A
   - _____No big deal

7. Do you ever skip classes? _____yes; _____no

8. What do you like **best** about school? _____

_____

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9. What do you like **least** about school? _____

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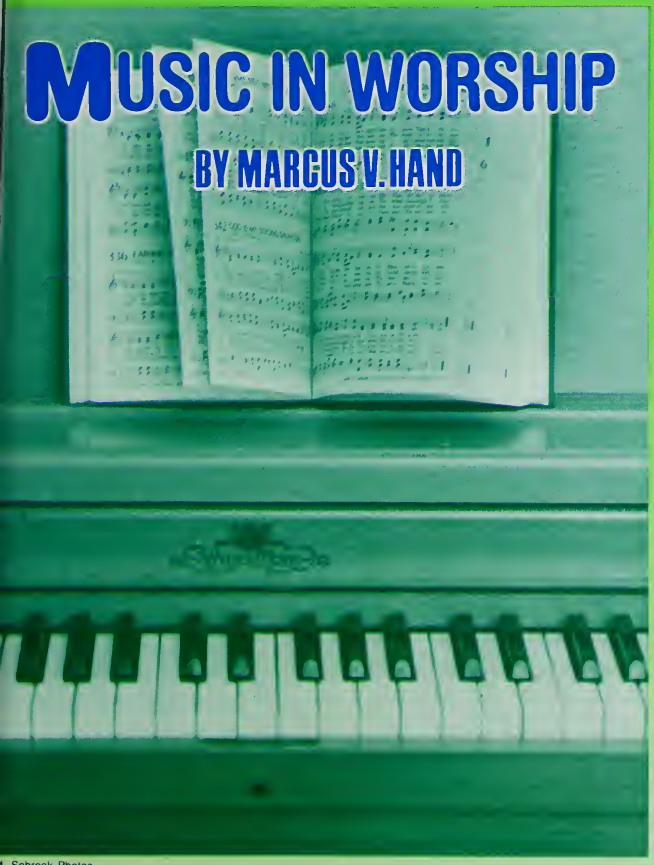
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"I DON'T CARE IF IT IS GOSPEL, THAT MUSIC IS BAD!"

"COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE FOR CHURCH!"

"THAT'S JUST THE WORLD'S MUSIC WITH SOME CHRISTIAN LYRICS!"

Ever hear anyone express these sentiments? Or some similar ones? Some folk talk about how refreshing gospel music is these days while others say most of it is terrible. Sincere Christians defend both sides of the issue.



MUSIC IN WORSHIP

BY MARCUS V. HAND

M. Schrock Photos

Music is important, especially in worship. How does a Christian determine what is acceptable and appropriate, and what is not?

Gospel music is as varied as any other kind of music. The many types and genres appeal to different people. Most forms of gospel music have some merit. They are certainly interesting. I have heard everything from "high church" music to performances on handsaws and washboards (believe it or not, some call *that* music). In a church where I once conducted a revival, the pastor called on a brother to "whistle a solo!"

Styles in gospel music, like all other styles, are usually shaped by the culture. Sentimental gospel songs in the 30's gave way to more militant tunes during the 40's when the world was at war. Gospel music in the 50's adapted the doo-wah's and rhythm patterns of early rock and roll. During the 60's and early 70's, thousands of "flower children" left the drug culture to become Jesus People. Out of this whole movement came the charismatic praise choruses that most Pentecostal and evangelical churches now sing.

The late 70's and early 80's saw former rock musicians turn to Christ. Their influence has altered again some forms of gospel music. Should Jesus tarry, another fad and/or movement will probably surface during the next decade.

Thus we see that our music, like our culture, is shaped by many influences. The Christian doesn't get his guidance from fads, however; so let's look to the Word of God.

* * * *

The Bible commands us to sing, whether with others or alone. *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:19, *New International Version*). Christians are to *"Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom . . . as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God"* (Colossians 3:16, *NIV*).

Paul specifically mentioned three types of songs. **Psalms** are first. In his book *Music in the Pentecostal Church*, Dr. Delton L. Alford says, "This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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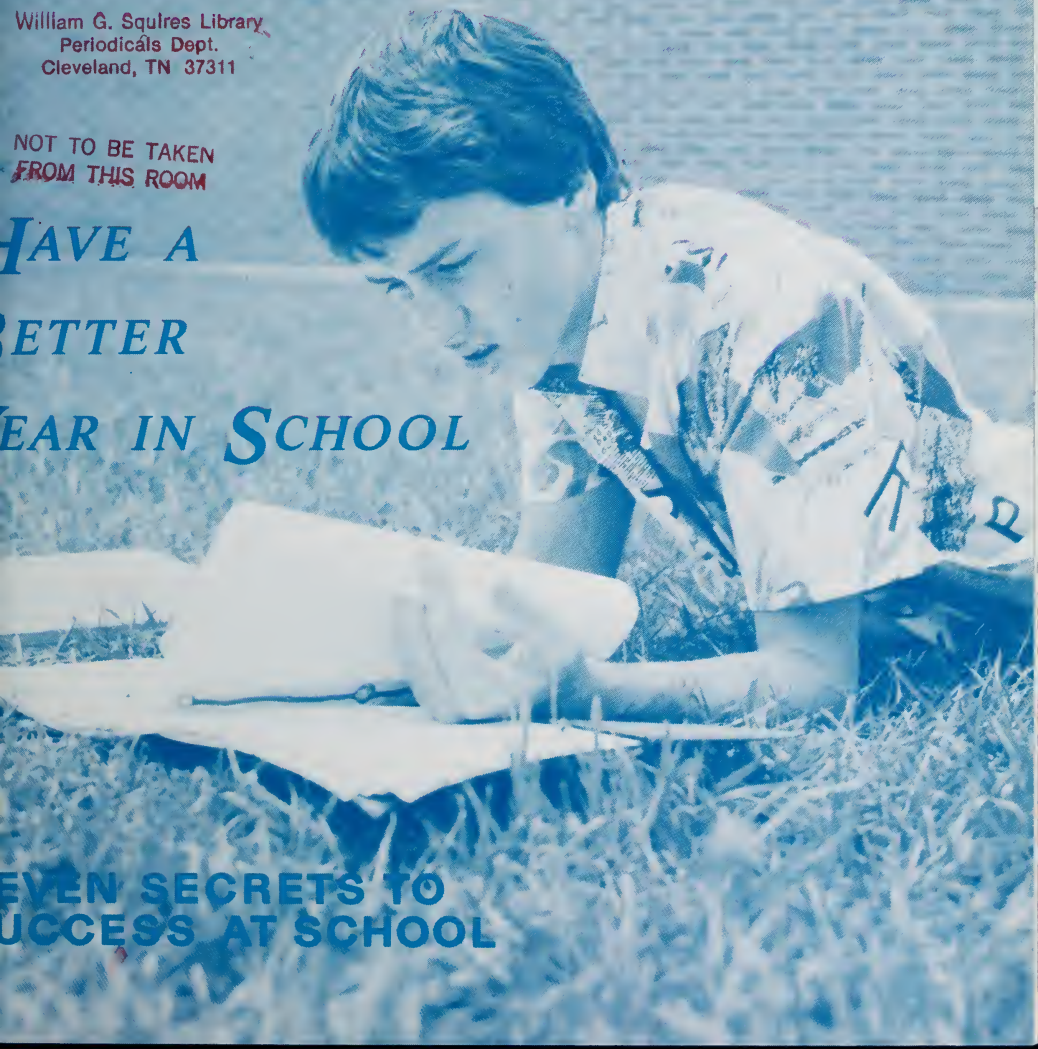
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Leilani Humphrey **9** **Twirling for Love**
A true story about looking for love. . . .

Connie Caldwell **20** **The Light From Within**
Alora Holloway experiences God's power. . . .

22 **China Church Leader Experiences the Holy Spirit**
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REGULARS

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You and Your Mind

MAKING GOOD:

How to Have a Better Year in School

by BILL GEORGE

Bill George, Associate Professor at Lee College, is the father of two teens. . . .

DO YOU RECALL HOW you felt last spring when the school year ended and you looked back over nine months, wondering why you hadn't done better? With this year's classes under way, let's talk about how you can have a better school year in 1985-86.

Let me clear up two matters before we get started. First, what do I mean by "better"? Primarily, I'm talking about grades, but the suggestions I'm going to make will help you achieve greater success in personal relationships, extra-curricular activities, and your spiritual life.

The other matter concerns me. When I read an article I usually ask myself, "Who is this writer and how can he or she help me?" I'm writing, first, from the perspective of a former teenager. I've had seven years of experience being a teen, which is more than most present teenagers have had!



Sheldon Vik Photo

Next, I've been a student in classrooms for 22 years, counting elementary, junior high, senior high, college and graduate schools. Also, I teach young people at Lee College and I work closely with my students.

Finally, I'm the parent of a high school senior who does well in school. My observations from these perspectives have given me some insight into why some people perform better one year than they did the year before.

Let me share some suggestions with you and ask you to take them to heart.

1. Decide at the year's start that you are going to do better.

The Bible drives home the point that self-determination is super-important when it says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Try to put yourself at year's end, in your thinking, instead of at the year's beginning. Ask yourself, "What will I wish I had accomplished this year?" Let your answer help you decide to aim high.

2. Set goals that are consonant with your abilities.

Can you possibly make A's? Then decide that you are going to do it! Remember, however, that just having ability does not insure success. A preacher wrote in the Bible: "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong" (Ecclesiastes 9:11). Part of the meaning of this saying is that just possessing capacity does not guarantee results.

Last year I had a couple of students in one class (I'll call them Charles and Stephen), both of whom were intellectually sharp. Charles flunked and Stephen came out with a B. They could have done better. In both cases they failed to set goals and pursue them.

3. Realize that who you associate with will greatly affect your performance.

Who do you run around with? Why these particular people? We choose some of our friends just because they are the kind of people we like to be with. We gravitate toward others because they live nearby. Some hoped-for friends get on our list because of what they can do for us in terms of popularity.

Here's a good guideline for deciding with whom you will spend time: Simply ask yourself, Who do I want to be like? Make sure you have your highest, purest motivations in mind when you answer. You're sure to have a better year than last year if you invest your time in the lives of admirable people. What you will discover in life is that you tend to become like the people you hang around.

4. Keep yourself motivated.

How many times have you told yourself you were going to do better, only to arrive at a weak moment and blow it? One test can send the whole semester average down the drain. Two or three days of missed practice sessions can set you back a month. How can you avoid creating chaos or an irremediable mess? Keep motivated!

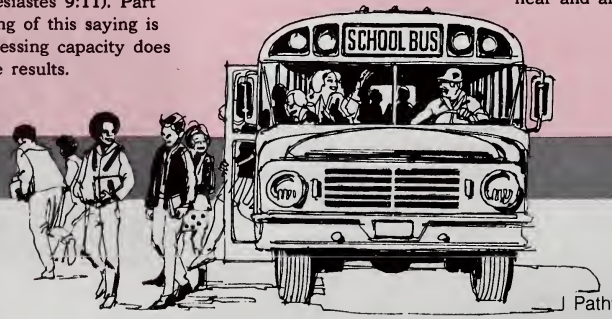
Perhaps the best handle on persistent, persevering motivation is a good friend or mentor. Share your dreams, your goals, what you want to accomplish, with someone else: a friend your own age or an older person such as your Sunday school teacher. Then, the minute the difficulties come, share them, too, with your friend. You will find out that the healing, helping power of friendship can renew your motivation.

5. Remember: God wants His people to excel.

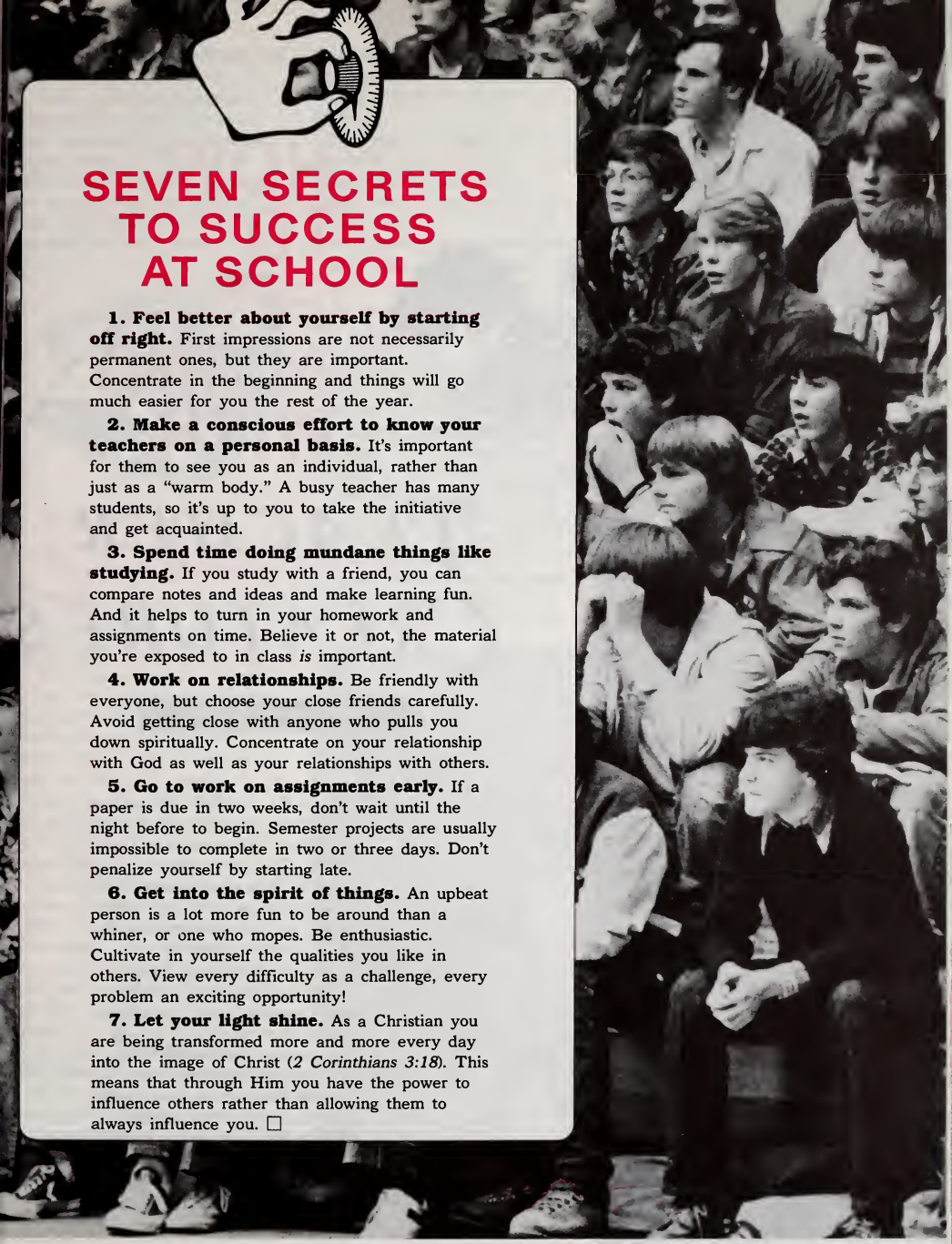
I suppose I could write a bunch of stuff about study habits, self-discipline and the like, but the bottom line on the matter of doing better this year has to do with attitude. Look back over these suggestions and notice that they all have to do with attitude.

Let me remind you that God desires the best for you. It gives Him joy when His chosen people excel.

Now, and throughout the year, pray often, "Lord, help me do my best." It is a prayer He will hear and answer. □



Camerique Photo



SEVEN SECRETS TO SUCCESS AT SCHOOL

1. Feel better about yourself by starting off right. First impressions are not necessarily permanent ones, but they are important. Concentrate in the beginning and things will go much easier for you the rest of the year.

2. Make a conscious effort to know your teachers on a personal basis. It's important for them to see you as an individual, rather than just as a "warm body." A busy teacher has many students, so it's up to you to take the initiative and get acquainted.

3. Spend time doing mundane things like studying. If you study with a friend, you can compare notes and ideas and make learning fun. And it helps to turn in your homework and assignments on time. Believe it or not, the material you're exposed to in class *is* important.

4. Work on relationships. Be friendly with everyone, but choose your close friends carefully. Avoid getting close with anyone who pulls you down spiritually. Concentrate on your relationship with God as well as your relationships with others.

5. Go to work on assignments early. If a paper is due in two weeks, don't wait until the night before to begin. Semester projects are usually impossible to complete in two or three days. Don't penalize yourself by starting late.

6. Get into the spirit of things. An upbeat person is a lot more fun to be around than a whiner, or one who mopes. Be enthusiastic. Cultivate in yourself the qualities you like in others. View every difficulty as a challenge, every problem an exciting opportunity!

7. Let your light shine. As a Christian you are being transformed more and more every day into the image of Christ (*2 Corinthians 3:18*). This means that through Him you have the power to influence others rather than allowing them to always influence you. □



HOW TO GET ALONG WITH TEACHER CREATURES

by SAM BELISLE

An effective youth leader, the Reverend Sam Belisle is Minister of Youth at the prestigious Doraville, Georgia, Church of God. . . .

FOR MOST STUDENTS the first day of the new school year is looked on with much dread and horror. The dream of lost summer days of enjoyment, fun, and recreation gives way to the realization that time goes on. It's time to return to school.

For rising freshmen there is much fear. You hear stories of huge roaming seniors looking for freshmen to prey on. There is the common problem of fear of competition, whether on the football field, in the band room, getting a good report card, or making the cheerleading squad.

There are many other things you face this fall.

One of the most important challenges you face is that of getting along with the creatures called teachers. They are the **other** humans that go to school each day. They too must "fit" into the system. The real question for you is how are you going to get along with them?



Teachers are not aliens from a lost nomadic and barbaric tribe. . . .

Let's face it: bringing an apple a day to school just doesn't cut it any more. Pleading for more homework only makes them think you're weird. So how do you get along with teachers?

First, realize that this new school year is a new beginning, a fresh start. It can be a new opportunity to cultivate new relationships with some very caring and concerned people affectionately call teachers. Remember, these individuals are not aliens from a lost nomadic and barbaric tribe. They're real people who want to help you learn.

In any successful personal relationship it takes caring, love, and the willingness to understand each other. Through good communication this is possible. The wise man, Solomon, said, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24).

This year, endeavor to be friends with your teachers. Remember they are not the enemy. In any relationship you have a choice as to its outcome, whether favorable or unfavorable.

Your attitude is a key factor in the way you get along with your teacher. It also affects the way you get along with everyone else. Simply stated, your attitude is the position or feeling you have toward something or someone else. The driving point the Apostle Paul makes is that Christians are to be an example. He tells us in his writings, "When the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22, 23, *Living Bible*). You can make the difference between a good year with your teachers and a poor one. You have the ability and the potential; it's up to you!

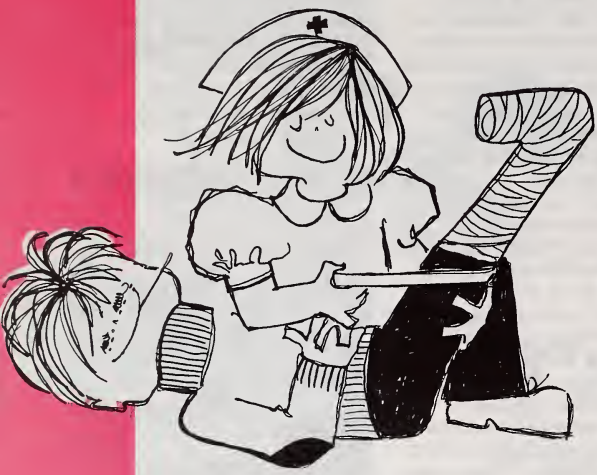
If in the past you have "always" had problems with teachers, take an inward look. Improve yourself so that this year will be the greatest you have ever had in school.

Remember: after the first day of school you have only 179 more days to go! □





IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO



PLAN YOUR CAREER

WITH THE NEW SCHOOL year underway, it's an opportune time to begin planning your career for when you get out of high school or college, according to a human resources management consultant who specializes in career counseling.

Young people generally wait too long to decide on future occupations and professions, says Andrew Sherwood, president of the Goodrich & Sherwood Company. Most are not aware that it's never too early to launch plans and programs to reach career objectives.

He suggests that teenagers follow a program to help prepare them for the business world:

1. Learn all you can about the careers you have in mind. Then choose the one you want to target on early so you can select the course of study it will require.

2. Concentrate on your studies to get the grades you'll need to get into college or to get that first job.

3. Strive to read well with speed and comprehension. Take extra courses if your reading is weak.

4. Take advantage of every opportunity to help you communicate well—both orally and in writing—so you will be able to sell yourself and your ideas.

5. Become a team player, one who can work with others toward a common cause, by engaging in extracurricular and outside-of-school activities.

6. Develop leadership qualities by being active in school, church and young peoples' programs in your community. Watch the natural leaders you know and adopt their techniques.

7. Seek practical experience in your chosen career outside of school by getting jobs (with low or no pay if necessary) during school holidays, mid-term breaks and summer vacations.

"Following this kind of a program and learning the discipline that it calls for, will give you a leg up on your future career," Sherwood says. □

(A TRUE STORY)



Born in Vietnam during the war, she grew up trying to win her mother's love. . . .

TWIRLING FOR LOVE

"ARE YOU CRAZY? No! She's not going and that's final!"

Mom was shouting at Dad and it was all my fault. I had signed up for the school talent show and now Dad was trying to tell Mom that it was a good idea. But he wasn't getting very far. Why couldn't she understand? This wasn't Vietnam, this was America. Things were different here. We had to change, to adapt to our new homeland.

I was born in a little village in Vietnam during the war. My real mother died shortly after I was born. My father was a South Vietnamese army officer who married again after my mother's death; that woman became my stepmother. Then, my father was killed in the war and my stepmother became Mom, the only parent I really had in life.

She met an American and fell in love. They married and had two beautiful little daughters. We grew up together and loved each other as true sisters. But Mom always made me feel that they were her family and I was just an outsider.

I was ten years old when the war ended in Vietnam. We left the country and traveled to

America. For the first time in my life that I could remember, I had a Dad. He was very kind to all of us. We lived near Washington, D.C., and I started school in America, not knowing any English except the new name, "Leilani."

* * * *

When I was in the eighth grade, Dad had an idea.

"You're going to learn something that will make your mother proud of you, Leilani. Then she'll realize she's been ignoring you all these years when you were seeking her love."

Well, I was ready to try anything. So he took me to a friend of his who taught baton twirling. I didn't know what a baton twirler was but I was about to become one. I just trusted Dad.

For the next year my baton was my constant companion. As soon as I got home from school, I would go outside to practice until dark. Only when I was too tired to try one more toss-turn would I give up and go inside.

On a beautiful spring day I brought home the notice about the school talent show and gave it to Dad. My baton teacher went to work making up a solo twirling routine to Herb Alpert's "Tijuana Taxi." I barely had a month to learn it and get it down, so I spent hours practicing until I was tired and ached all over.

We didn't tell Mom about the show until Saturday afternoon, just hours before it was to start. I couldn't believe she would refuse to let me be a part of it. I had spent so many hours getting ready, wanting so much to please her. She is a wonderful person but she had lived a hard life in Vietnam. Now she is doing her best to learn English, to become an American, and to provide a good home for us. The harder she worked at it, the more I admired her, loved her, and wanted her to love me.

* * * *

It looked as if all those weary hours of practice were wasted because she wasn't going to let me be in the show. I ran to my room, kicked the baton under the bed, and threw myself on my pillow. Everything for nothing!

Then I started to pray. I wasn't very good at it. In Vietnam we grew up as Buddhists but in America our new Dad took us to Sunday school and church where we learned about God and Jesus. With tears in my eyes I prayed to God to make Mom change her mind and let me go to the show.

It was the first time I ever asked God for anything. I didn't know how to pray very well and I didn't have much faith. Mom was really angry with me for wanting to be in the show because she was afraid I would embarrass our family.

There was a knock on my door. It was Dad. "Leilani, get your baton. She's changed her mind, she's going to give you a chance to do your act for us right now. If you do well, she'll let you be in the show tonight."

I scrambled under my bed for my baton and ran outside where Dad was moving the car so that I could twirl in the driveway.

Dad, Mom, and my sisters sat on the front steps. I turned on the music and started the routine. I was scared and I didn't do well, dropping the baton several times. But Mom seemed impressed.

"Can you do it without dropping?" she asked.

"Yes, Mother. I was nervous. I won't be nervous at the show. I won't drop."

"All right, then. You can go."

I wouldn't be nervous at the show? Who was I kidding?

* * * *

When we got to the school, Mom, Dad and my two sisters found seats in the second row. I went backstage to get ready. My girlfriend, Monica, was there. She was on the stage crew and would be working the lights and curtain.

"Take your time, Leilani," she said. "You're the very last one on the program."

My stomach filled with ticklish butterflies as I found a corner backstage out of sight where I could warm up. *No drop,* I told myself. If I messed up now Mom would never give me another chance.

Before I knew it, Monica whispered, "You're on Leilani, good luck!"

I took a deep breath, stepped to center stage, and waited. Monica pulled the curtain open. I was really scared but then the music came on and I started twirling. I forgot all about the audience, about my family sitting out there; I concentrated on my routine.

Toward the end, Monica stopped the music as planned. Then she turned off all the lights as I ran offstage to exchange my baton for a pair of

fire batons. When the music started up again, I whipped the flaming batons into motion. I really concentrated on my twirling but the audience began clapping and cheering and wouldn't stop. I could hardly hear my music.

Then it was over. The music stopped, the lights came on, and I raised the flaming batons high over my head in a final salute. Everyone was standing and cheering and I could see Mom and Dad smiling and clapping. Monica closed the curtain at last and I ran off stage, put out the fire batons, and turned to Monica.

"I don't remember dropping, Monica."

She smiled at me. "You didn't even come close to dropping, Leilani. You were perfect!"

Then I heard my name called over the loudspeaker. I had won second prize.

Prize? My prize was the smile on my mother's face.

* * * *

As we walked back to the car in the parking lot, Mom told Tammi to get in the back seat, she wanted me to sit in front with her. Ever since we arrived in America, Tammi, the youngest, always rode in front with Mom and Dad. But Tammi sensed something was up so she hopped quietly in back with Terri, my other sister. I slid in beside Mom and closed the door.

As Dad started the car, Mom leaned over and whispered to me in Vietnamese, "You were good tonight, daughter. You obviously worked very hard and you knew you could do well and you wanted to show me. That was good. But there are many things you still need to learn about life as you grow up. We must spend more time talking together. And we will."

Then she changed to English and, in a voice loud enough for all of us to hear, said, "She was the best one tonight. She should have won first prize. Next year she will."

Then she put her arm around me. It was the first time Mom had ever done that.

My head fell on her shoulder and I cried all the way home. ☐

NOTE: Mom and I have been as close as any mother and daughter since then. I graduated from high school this past summer and passed the examination to become an American citizen. I hope to attend college this fall. ☐

TOP 10 GOSPEL FAVORITES

This is a *Lighted Pathway* listing of top best selling gospel records and tapes.

1. **Unguarded**
   Amy Grant / Myrrh
2. **He Holds the Keys**
   Steve Green / Sparrow
3. **Comin' On Strong**
   Carman / Myrrh
4. **I've Just Seen Jesus**
   Larnelle Harris / Impact
5. **Fully Alive**
   The Bill Gaither Trio / Word
6. **More Than Wonderful**
   Sandi Patti / Impact
7. **7**
   David Meece / Myrrh
8. **Beat the System**
   Petra / Star Song
9. **Life the Roof Off**
   The Hinsons / Calvary
10. **Michael W. Smith Project**
    Michael W. Smith / Reunion

Others: **Amy Grant,** *Amy Grant / Myrrh;* **Kingsmen Better In Person,** *The Kingsmen / Benson;* **Let the Wind Blow,** *The Imperials / Myrrh;* **It Runs In the Family,** *The Hinsons / Calvary*

CHRISTIAN VIDEOS

Here is a listing of the most popular videos being rented in Pathway Bookstores.

1. **The Hiding Place**
2. **Live Concert**
   Sandi Patti
3. **Amy Grant In Concert**
   Amy Grant
4. **Time To Run**
5. **The Ten Commandments**
   The Reliability of Scripture
   Josh McDowell

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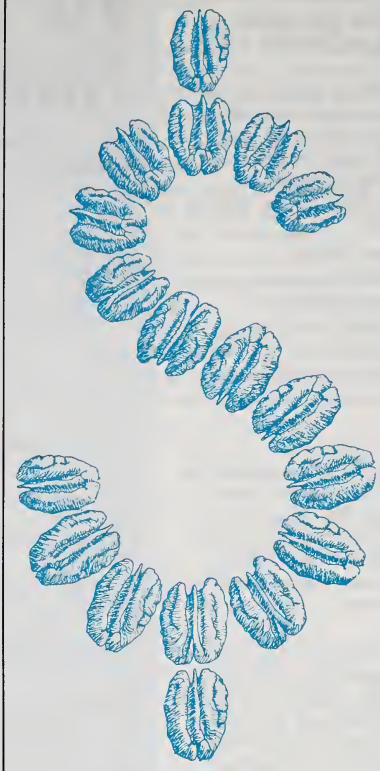
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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN

How can you know whether you are a Christian?

- Being born of Christian parents does not make you a Christian.
- Being reared in a Christian home does not make you a Christian.
- Being a citizen of a Christian nation does not make you a Christian.
- Being a member of a church does not make you a Christian.
- Attending church regularly does not make you a Christian.
- Believing in God does not make you a Christian (see James 2:19).

Please understand: a Christian *does* believe in God. He attends worship as regularly as possible. He becomes a participating member of a fellowship of believers. These things, by themselves, however, do not make a person a Christian.

How then do you become a Christian? Listen to the Word of God:

Jesus declared "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:3-8, unless noted, all scripture *New International Version*).

A person becomes a Christian when he is born again. He may be Christian in his beliefs, in his morals, and in his behavior without being a Christian in fact. He becomes a Christian in fact only when he experiences the new birth.

How can you experience a new birth? It's as easy as A-B-C.

A—Acknowledge the fact that you, a child of time, cannot change the real you, the inward you, and save your soul for eternity. Confess your sins to God and acknowledge your need for Him.

B—Believe that God not only can but will make you a new person. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

C—Confess.

The word is near you . . . that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved (Romans 10:9, 10).

YOU ARE IN CHRIST

A person who is born again is in Christ. *When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun! All these new things are from God* (2 Corinthians 5:17, 18; *Living Bible*).

This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did (1 John 2:5, 6). Here is how Jesus walked:

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE	WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME
1. Jesus confronted life's problems with power and authority available to us today. *Luke 3:21, 22; John 1:32-34; Acts 1:8*	
2. He worshipped, read the word of God, and prayed regularly. *Luke 4:16; 6:12; Mark 1:35; 6:46*	
3. He shared with others what he found from God. *Mark 10:1*	
4. He loved everybody genuinely—friends and enemies! *Matthew 5:43-45; Luke 6:27, 28; 23:33, 34*	
5. He surrendered His will completely to God. *Luke 22:39-42*	
6. He faced life's most difficult tasks with unflinching faith by preparing for every eventuality. *Luke 9:51, 52*	

LOOK IN THE WORD

John 15:1-8, *New International Version*

1. *Verse 1* refers to Jesus as the _____ _____.

2. The Father is the _____.

3. *Verse 2* says that the gardener cuts off some of the branches. Why?

4. What is the purpose of pruning fruitful branches (verse 2)?

5. What does it mean for a Christian to be fruitful?

6. *"The fruitless branches are lopped off, while the fruitful ones are pruned that they may become still more productive. This shows what is uppermost in the mind of Jesus. His heart's desire is that His disciples may be spiritually fruitful. You are useless unless you bear fruit."* A. B. Bruce

7. According to *verse 3,* what is it that cleanses a Christian?

8. Read *verse 4.* Explain how the vine remains in the branches?

9. What does this mean to you and your relationship to God?

10. Read *verse 5.* How important is Jesus to everything you do?

11. Rewrite *verse 6* in your own words.

12. What is the glorious promise made in *verse 7?* Memorize this verse.

13. Write down something special you need God to do for you.

14. According to *verse 8,* how do you bring glory to God the Father?

IN CHRIST





Answers to Crossword Puzzle on page 19

ACROSS

1. Paul's _____ of life in Christ. (1 Corinthians 4:17)

3. A _____ is given to you in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:4)

6. In Christ, His _____ remains in you. (John 15:7)

8. Your _____ in Christ is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

11. Bearing fruit proves you are a _____. (John 15:8).

13. A _____ in Christ. (2 Corinthians 12:2)

14. The _____ of Christ's knowledge is spread. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

15. _____ the truth in Christ. (Romans 9:1)

17. In Christ there is no _____. (Romans 8:1)

19. Paul sends _____ to all in Christ. (1 Corinthians 16:24)

22. In Christ all are made _____. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

23. We are _____ in every way. (1 Corinthians 1:5)

27. Paul _____ as a man in Christ. (2 Corinthians 12:19)

28. In Christ ye bear much _____. (John 15:5)

29. Speak in _____, like men from God. (2 Corinthians 2:17)

32. _____ in Christ. (Romans 16:3)

34. Words of Christ make us _____. (John 15:3)

35. In Christ we form one _____. (Romans 12:5)

DOWN

2. The dead are _____in Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:18)

3. In Christ God is _____. (John 13:31)

4. God reconciled the _____ to Himself. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

5. "I _____ over you in Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:31)

7. Nothing can _____ us from the love of God. (Romans 8:39)

9. In Christ was _____. (John 1:4)

10. Corinthians were the _____ of Paul's apostleship. (1 Corinthians 9:2)

12. _____ in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

15. Paul gloried in his _____ to God. (Romans 15:17)

17. In Christ you are a new _____. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

18. Ask in His _____. (John 14:13)

20. "_____ to sin." (Romans 6:11)

21. _____ of God you are in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

24. _____ in me. (John 15:4)

25. Paul was a _____ through the gospel. (1 Corinthians 4:15)

26. Paul's relatives were in Christ _____ he was. (Romans 16:7)

30. Stand _____ in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:21)

31. In Christ the promises of God are _____. (2 Corinthians 1:19)

33. "Alive to _____." (Romans 6:11)

The College Corner examines some adjustments to be made when you go away to college for the first time. . . .



HOW TO MAKE IT IN COLLEGE

by PAUL E. DUNCAN

COLLEGE MEANS community—and community means relationships.

Almost every activity on campus calls for relationships with people. Learning to communicate with your professors, getting along with your roommate, becoming involved in clubs and organizations, dating, and other leisure-time relationships require the ability to relate in a personal way. They point up the age-old truth that "you can't make it by yourself."

Sharing a small dormitory room when you've been accustomed to your own private and spacious bedroom at home is not always easy. Sometimes it is fertile ground for problems.

For example, if you are "a night person" and your roomie is ready to go to bed at 9 o'clock, problems are bound to arise. If you like the room a cool 60 degrees and he or she likes the thermostat set at 75 degrees, adjustment is called for. And what if one is neat and the other messy; or one likes to entertain friends in the room, and the other thinks the room is for study? These are problems which must be faced if the two of you are to be compatible.

Learning to get along in close quarters requires a measure of maturity on your part. The following principles should prove helpful as you strive to relate not only to your roommate but also to others in a healthy and mature way:

AFFIRMATION

The principle of affirmation is most helpful in achieving a close, personal relationship. To affirm another person is to accept him or her as a person of worth without condemning or judging. Research shows that people are more likely to respond in a positive way if they are affirmed rather than put down or condemned. Affirmation means we accept another as he is with his strengths and weaknesses. It is not flattery, which is basically a form of manipulation designed to get your own way. Affirmation is the opposite of indifference, which ignores another and refuses to acknowledge him or her as worthy of your attention.

You affirm someone when you expect the best in him and respond in such a way that he can blossom and become all he was meant to be. You affirm him when you recognize him as being as unique as his own thumbprint, when you accept him as belonging.

When affirmation becomes your characteristic way of relating to others, you will be amazed at how much better you are able to communicate with others. And while there will still be disagreements, you will find that you are better able to resolve them.

HUMILITY

A second concept to follow in improving your relationships with others has to do with humility. Humility implies that you recognize the rights of others. In disagreements or conflicts it means you are willing to consider the idea that you are not always right. You realize that you are never entirely or completely right in a complex personal struggle.

Humility is the opposite of the idea expressed in this anonymous composition:

> In matters controversial
> My perception is quite fine.
> I always see both points
> of view:
> The one that's wrong, and
> mine.

To be humble is to be teachable. A valuable lesson in life is to learn that you can learn something from every person you meet.

PATIENCE

A third principle is that patience with yourself and with others enhances your skill in getting along with others. Patience speaks of endurance or standing in the face of difficulty without losing heart. When you find yourself in a difficult situation with your roommate or other close friend, ask yourself how important this problem will be five years from now. Do you want an immediate victory which will vindicate you in the personal struggle, or do you want a more solid, long-lasting relationship with this person?

Patience means waiting until the opportune time to deal with a problem—a time when the heat of the argument has subsided and calmer minds can reign.

Not only is it helpful to be patient with others, it's also beneficial to be patient with yourself. Impatience with yourself often expresses itself as anger, and anger is one of the toughest problems to deal with in interpersonal relationships. As you struggle to reconcile your differences with others, remember the value of patience.



But what do you do when there are disagreements, when you have failed to be affirming, humble, or patient? Such times demand a way for us to get back together. *This brings us to the principle of forgiveness.* Genuine forgiveness will bridge the gap of separation and bring about reconciliation, which is what most people want in the depth of their being.

You can misuse forgiveness. You say you forgive another but you may do it with an attitude of superiority and anger. In effect you're saying, "I'm the one who has been hurt and it's you who is to blame. However, I will be unselfish and allow you to come back to me." This kind of forgiveness brings out more anger than existed before the apology.

Real forgiveness may hurt, because you are risking yourself by being honest and vulnerable. It costs, because when you forgive you actually give yourself for the other person. Ideally, you need mutual forgiveness when hurt has occurred, so that each may uphold and upbuild the other in love.

If you seek to affirm others and relate to them with humility and patience, you will find your relationship will be more meaningful and harmonious. You and your roommate will communicate more effectively and your friendship will grow.

When conflicts arise and feelings are hurt, practice the principle of forgiveness. Wounds can be healed and friendships strengthened if you follow this principle. □





Answers to Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS	DOWN
1. way	2. asleep
3. grace	3. glorified
6. words	4. world
8. labor	5. glory
11. disciple	7. separate
13. man	9. life
14. fragrance	10. seal
15. speak	12. sanctified
17. condemnation	15. service
19. love	16. infants
22. alive	17. creation
23. enriched	18. name
27. spoke	20. dead
28. fruit	21. because
29. sincerity	24. remain
32. workers	25. father
34. clean	26. before
35. body	30. firm
	31. yes
	33. God





Connie, above, smiles at Alora's work.

THE LIGHT FROM WITHIN

by CONNIE CALDWELL

WORKING WITH OTHER Christians, you sometimes find yourself wondering, "What if this person were going through trials? Would he or she still be so joyful and sure of God's strength?" I would like to share with you a testimony which exemplifies all that God's power should be.

Many people are responsible for making the *Lighted Pathway* what it is today—a written ministry reaching out to young people with all types of problems and all kinds of questions. All who work with this magazine have a common goal—to touch the lives of others with the message that God loves them and that His power will help them overcome problems. Alora Holloway is one of these persons.

Alora is Editorial Secretary for *Lighted Pathway*. In addition to regular secretarial duties, she does much of the research for the magazine. Walk into her office and she greets you with a big smile and a warm "hey" that lights up the world. Her love for Christ has been evident to me since I first met her.

I moved to the Cleveland, Tennessee, area a year ago and found myself needing a friend. Alora became a special friend. When I would be homesick and lonely I would go to Alora to talk. She always said to me, "Now God can give you the strength you need. Just lean on Him."

Sounds easy enough, doesn't it? But what if she had unexpected trials? Would those words be as real to her as she made them feel to me?

As secretary to Larry Benz, editor of Family Training Hour Literature, I work across the hall from Alora. A few weeks ago she came into my office and asked me to pray. She had found a lump in her breast and had made an appointment with her doctor. Although she was apprehensive, as any woman would be, she was not afraid. She said, simply, "I know God will take care of me. He always has."

Later in the evening she told me she would be entering the hospital that week for a biopsy. Alora faced what every woman fears—possible mastectomy. She asked us to continue to pray for God to be with her. She cried, as any woman would, but she never gave the slightest indication she didn't trust the Lord with her very life. She told everyone she could feel God's peace within.

A week later Alora was told she had cancer and would have to have a breast removed. We were all very concerned. How would she take such a blow?

The next day after surgery, two friends and I visited Alora in the hospital. We wondered what we could say to her. What could we do to lift her spirits? Depression often follows cancer surgery, we were told.

When we entered the room Alora greeted us with a big "hey" and her usual warm, loving smile and hug. Had this traumatic experience changed Alora? Yes, definitely! Instead of weakening Alora's faith, however, it made her even more aware of God's strength and love. She trusted Him with her life and He was in control.

We didn't need to uplift Alora's spirits; she uplifted ours!

God's Word to us is, "By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15). Alora did just that, she praised Him in all things.

She praised Him because she had found the lump.

She praised God for leading her to a Christian doctor who prayed with her before she went into surgery.

She praised Him for the fact she didn't need any medication for pain, although she had been through major surgery.

Most of all she praised God for walking with her through all things in life.

I too praise God for what He has done for Alora and her family. I also praise Him for the testimony she has shared with me and others.

Alora has returned to work now. Anyone who asks Alora how she feels hears the same wonderful words, "I'm fine—God has been so good to me!"

What a wonderful testimony for us to learn. Praise Him in all things. Praise Him when things are going well; and praise Him through the trials. It's from the trials that we learn wisdom and we learn to trust Him with our lives.

Alora Holloway proved with her life that she is the same strong and loving Christian inside that she appears to be on the outside!

The light in her face comes from within. □

Praise report of some of the things God is doing behind the bamboo curtain. . . .

FU, A PASTOR, WAS a member of the Three-Self Committee in a province in northern China and was paid a high salary by the government. One time a group of Christians led by an itinerant preacher wanted to hold a gathering in Fu's home.

At first he was reluctant to accept the idea. Later they found his son, who had become a Christian while working in a mine, and asked him to persuade Fu. Fu agreed to open his home; however, he was unhappy about it. The brothers and sisters prayed for him, asking the Lord to open his eyes.

On the second day of the meeting, God sent down the power of the Holy Spirit: He grasped the hearts of everyone in the meeting. Every person fell before the Lord, confessing his sins. Some had been Christians for decades, but they knew nothing of the power of the Holy Spirit. Fu confessed his sins before the Lord for five and a half hours. When he got up from his knees he said, "I have believed in the Lord for more than forty years, but I have never experienced such spiritual shock."

Through this meeting Fu knew clearly that he was saved. The cross of the Lord was always before him. Being filled with the Spirit of God and constrained by



His love, he became greatly burdened for God's work in the area. He felt that he had been a blind guide who had led more than 700 people into the pit. So, he prayed with tears before God.

Later Fu found a house that belonged to a reliable brother. There they held small training sessions for twenty to thirty believers. Although he was the person in charge, other brothers and sisters did the training.

In the past couple of months, four or five training sessions have been held in this area. Fu called the persons in charge of churches in the area, the Three-Self Committee members, and the preachers together for a meeting. In the meeting he led them to the presence of the Lord, making sure that each knew clearly he or she was saved.

Thanks to the Lord, His ministry is progressing well in this area; God is really blessing. As many as 800 persons attend service at a single church; the smallest one has over 600. There are five or six churches like this in this area.

During the church training sessions, at least four members clearly received the call of God. The word of God came to them saying, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations." The need for the gospel is great in the mountains and rural areas; many workers are needed to do pioneering work in these areas. Two members were sent as a gospel team to the province of Shangdong. Requests for help come from many places, but we are unable to meet their needs since we do not have enough trained persons to do the job.

Praise the Father for His mercy upon those who have taken decades to perceive the truth. Praise the Lord for His redemptive work. Praise the Holy Spirit, for He convicts men of sin.

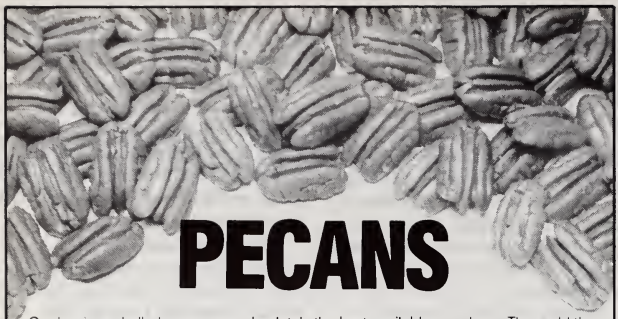
Continue to pray for the spread of the gospel in China. □

—China Prayer Letter

CHINA CHURCH LEADER EXPERIENCES THE HOLY SPIRIT







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TAKE FIVE:
Daily Devotion for September

September 1—Deuteronomy 7:6
September 2—1 Peter 2:9
September 3—2 Corinthians 2:16
September 4—2 Corinthians 6:14
September 5—Deuteronomy 7:3
September 6—1 John 2:15
September 7—Jeremiah 29:13
September 8—Esther 4:14
September 9—Matthew 13:45, 46
September 10—Proverbs 23:26
September 11—2 Kings 23:3
September 12—Daniel 1:8-18
September 13—Acts 21:13, 14
September 14—Exodus 32:29
September 15—1 Thessalonians 5:23
September 16—1 Chronicles 29:5
September 17—Hebrews 4:12
September 18—Romans 1:16
September 19—2 Timothy 3:16
September 20—Proverbs 6:23
September 21—Philippians 2:13-16
September 22—Deuteronomy 11:18
September 23—Colossians 3:16
September 24—1 Peter 2:1-3
September 25—1 John 1:1-3
September 26—Jeremiah 15:16
September 27—Revelation 3:11, 12
September 28—Isaiah 1:18
September 29—Matthew 11:28-30
September 30—Revelation 3:20, 21

Youth Leader Workshop:

OBLEMS FACING TODAY'S YOUTH

by JOSH McDOWELL

- In the next 30 minutes, 29 teenagers will attempt suicide.
- In the next 30 minutes, 23 teenagers will have an abortion.
- In the next 30 minutes, 685 teenagers will become regular drug users.

We are told in *1 Chronicles 12:32:* "They understood the times in order to know what to do." If we are to reach out effectively to today's youth, we must understand the conditions that help create the above statistics.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Picture two periods of time: 1964 to 1974—the first period; 1974 to 1984—the second. In the first period, I was asked at least a thousand questions yearly that were related to social issues. Do you know how many such questions I've had in the last year? Not one.

In the first period, young people were talking about the problems of the world. In the second period, they were talking about the problems of the individual—which is still the case in 1985.

During the first period 89 percent of freshmen coming into the university had already developed a meaningful philosophy of life. Last year it was 47 percent. It dropped from 89 percent to 47 percent in just 10 years. That's probably the most staggering figure I've heard about university freshmen, because one's philosophy of life determines everything he does.

Another important historical reference point is the 1950s. During the '50s, high school and college campuses were passive. Today they are also passive. Some people say, "It's the same thing." No, it's not.

Students were passive in the '50s because they were uninformed. Students are passive today because they're overwhelmed—not uninformed. There has never been a more informed youth culture than the youth of the '80s. But there has never been a culture more overwhelmed with the problems of the world than today's youth.

EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS

Another indicator of the state of today's youth is psychological. In the last ten years, in the 15- to 19-year-old bracket, the suicide rate has gone up over 400 percent. In the last three years, the suicide rate for 20- to 24-year-olds has increased 89 percent.

There are several reasons for this incredible increase. First, there is the *inability to reach desired goals and expectations.* There has probably never been a time in history when a young person's aspirations for success have been so great. However, there has also never been a time in history when a young person's perceptions about his ability to achieve have been so low.

Another reason for increased emotional problems is the *mobility of our society.* This year, more than 35 million Americans will move. Most young people are not getting their roots down. They're not developing long-lasting and meaningful relationships with peers.

Emotional instability is also caused by the *feeling that there is no future.* True, many youth believe they personally have a future—but the world in a nuclear age does not. So what's significant about that? Most of our motivation for life comes from the future. When you take away the future, you've lost the momentum for living.

Divorce is also a major cause of the problems we're facing. Most young people would rather lose a parent through death than through divorce. You see, in death a young person does not feel responsible. Death also brings a finality to the situation. This, of course, is far from true for divorce.

Finally, the *loss of intimacy* is another reason for the emotional problems of our youth. I do not

believe we have had a sexual revolution in the last 15 years. That's a cop-out. We have had a revolution in the search for intimacy.

Most youth and young adults do not want sex; they want intimacy. Young people are crying out for intimacy. Why? They're not getting it at home. In the universities I see the brokenness of spirit because of the lack of closeness to one's parents.

These are the problems confronting today's youth. If the evangelical church will not minister to them, who will? If we do not provide positive role models, where will they get them? □

Reprinted from *United Evangelical Action.*

RESOURCES

LEADERSHIP!

by Barry St. Clair

Victor Books, 1985, $9.95 (paper)

Training adults who are willing to work with youth and become youth ministry leaders is a constant challenge. Where do you find adequate resources? Barry St. Clair has written a book arranged neatly for three 12-week leadership training segments. They deal with the leader's personal relationship with Jesus Christ, youth ministry principles, and basic skills for working with youth. This resource will be invaluable for training and equipping your youth leaders. □

THE YOUTH GROUP HOW-TO BOOK

Edited by Lee Sparks

Group Books, 1981, $14.95 (paper)

The best description of what this book is about is found in the subtitle, *66 Practical Projects and Programs to Help You Build a Better Youth Group.* All the way from "How to Get Started" to "Fine Tuning for Experienced Leaders," this is the basic youth ministry how-to book. It contains programs, projects, retreats, as well as worship and service ideas. No youth group leader should be without it. □



YOU AND YOUR MIND

THE MIND IS A valuable thing, please don't waste it!

This is more than a slogan; it's a statement of truth for the Christian.

The human mind is a magnificent creation. Men spend a lifetime studying its functioning and its potentiality.

Someone has said, "The mind may be compared to a garden. It is as necessary to cultivate as any plot of earth, if order and beauty are to be manifested through it. Ideas, as well as flowers, in order to attain their full beauty, must be kept free from encumbering influences that tend to weaken or degrade or detract."

The Christian has the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). When you have the mind of Christ there are several things you will do.

- The Christian will concentrate on having a mind that is intellectually alert—Acts 17:11.
- The Christian will concentrate on having a mind that is emotionally stable—Mark 5:15.
- The Christian will concentrate on having a determined mind—Nehemiah 4:6.
- The Christian will have a mind committed to serving God—Matthew 22:37.
- The Christian will concentrate on having a willing mind—2 Corinthians 8:12.
- The Christian will concentrate on having a sound mind—2 Timothy 1:7.
- The Christian will concentrate on having an obedient mind—Philippians 2:5-8.
- The Christian will concentrate on having a spiritual mind—Colossians 3:2.

God puts no premium on lazy thinkers. Dolts who refuse to develop the mental resource God has given them do a disservice to Christianity and desecrate the creation of God.

This year is a brand new school year. God doesn't require you to be as smart as anyone else. He does, however, expect you to live up to the potential He has placed inside you.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5). □

by MARCUS V. HAND





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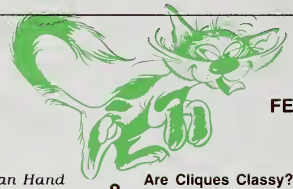


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AN ATHLETE AND HIS SISTER



Richie Hughes (11) sinks a two-pointer. Inset: Keri Hughes.

by RICHIE HUGHES

ONE OF THE greatest thrills I've ever experienced was when my sister Keri participated in the Special Olympics.

Let me tell you about Keri.

On August 25, 1966, my mother, Mrs. Brenda Hughes, went to Bradley Memorial Hospital for the delivery of her second child. My parents were hoping for a little girl and God blessed them with a beautiful daughter weighing 8 pounds and 14 ounces.

The process for delivery of my little sister went normal until the time of birth. The doctor scheduled for this great event could not be found! The nurses began saying to my mother, "Don't you have this baby . . . don't you have this baby!"

Because of this delay, my precious sister was born a "blue-skin baby." She had failed to get enough oxygen to her brain and this resulted in brain damage.

Three months later, my sister suffered her first epileptic seizure. At the local doctors office, my parents learned that Keri was an "epileptic." Needless to say, both Mom and Dad were hurt very deeply.

I have a special relationship with Keri. As all brothers and sisters, we have our moments of difficulty. None of these moments ever last for long. For you see, I am very blessed to have Keri as my sister. I live each day watching her overcome her disabilities . . . watching her grow . . . watching her learn. To me this is one of the greatest experiences any person could ever have.

Unlike most people, my sister struggles to work a simple addition or subtraction problem. She struggles to read a simple book. Experiencing life with her has been a most rewarding challenge.

Sometimes, persons will be cruel to my sister. They laugh at her and make fun of her. This makes me want to defend her and many times I've challenged these people to a fight. So far, no one has accepted the challenge. I'm sure this is God protecting me.

Keri takes 3 to 4 pills three times each day. This medicine helps control her seizures. While they help her, they also hinder her. The pills add to her problem of learning and cause her to sleep at least 13 or 14 hours each day. If she gets excited in a crowd or runs and plays too much, she experiences another seizure.

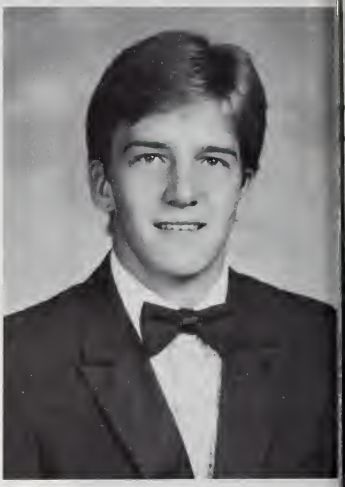
If only Keri could experience recreation as my dad and I. Dad was a great college basketball player and later head coach at Lee College. (I'm now a member of the same team my dad played for.) My sister will never be able to play sports unless God chooses to heal her.

In the Special Olympics competition, Keri won two blue ribbons—one for the softball throw and another for the broad jump. I had taught her how to throw and helped her with the broad jump. Keri worked so hard to achieve this goal. So many people, including myself, do not use all of their God-given abilities in achieving goals in life.

Having Keri as my sister and knowing what great difficulties she overcame to be first in these two categories, make me want to do more than ever to use all the abilities God has given me. When I get down, I always think of my precious sister and just how fortunate I have been to have her in my family. She is such an inspiration to me.

I love my sister very much. I pray each day that soon she will be healed. No matter what happens though, I'm proud to be the brother of Keri Hughes. I thank God each day for choosing me to experience life with such a beautiful person. □

RICHIE HUGHES



Lighted Pathway, October, 1985

A CHRISTIAN AND AN ATHLETE

Richie Hughes, 6'1" starting guard for the Lee College Flames, is an active Christian first, then an athlete. . . .

RICHIE HUGHES IS a six-foot, one-inch sophomore guard for the Lee College Flames. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hughes, he was an all-star athlete in high school who participated in several sports.

During his career at Cleveland, Tennessee's Bradley Central High, he averaged 12 points and six rebounds per game. A team player, he also averaged four assists each outing. Richie was named to the all-district team and during his senior year he was named Best Offensive Player in the region.

Richie chose Lee over other colleges that recruited him. His father, principal of Tennessee's largest high school, was a college star at Lee and spent several highly successful years as its head coach.

Lee's present head coach, Randy Steele, calls Richie "an excellent outside shooter who works hard. He's unselfish.

"Richie is an intelligent ball player. He plays with his head as well as with his heart. And he's highly coachable."

Last year as a freshman, Richie started ten games for the nationally known Flames. He averaged four points and two assists per game.

Active in his home church at North Cleveland, Richie is a leader in the youth group. Youth minister Fred Garmon says of him, "Although he's heavily involved in athletics right now, Richie is one of the most active and spiritually involved in our youth ministry. He's a family leader in FTH. Richie is an excellent role model."

Richie says being a Christian and an athlete is easier at a Christian school. Although he was president of his school's chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he admits, "There aren't a lot of athletes in high school who are also Christian. The language gets pretty terrible sometimes, and there are other things."

Richie is looking forward to this season. Coach Steele says of the Flames, "We're small but we're fast." Without a really tall player on the squad, the Flames are expected to be a running team.

You can be sure that Richie Hughes, Christian and athlete, will be running in the front of the pack. □

SIX Steps to
SPIRITUAL FITNESS

by LOIS C. PETERSON

HEARING PEOPLE TALK about physical fitness is not unusual. This should be a concern for all people, Christians included. Yet, spiritual fitness is important too.

Luke 2:52 shows that Jesus grew mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. He is our model for life. You hear of ways to grow mentally, socially and physically more often than you hear about how to grow spiritually. I want to suggest ways you can grow spiritually.

As you grow you discover that staying fit mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially are interrelated. If you do not take care of yourself physically, for instance, it will affect you mentally, socially and spiritually as well. Likewise, if you don't take care of your social needs, it affects you in other ways. Life cannot be separated into neat packages.

Life is sometimes a battle. The struggle may be with an inferiority complex, peer pressure, a crisis in the family, doubt, an illness, or an accident. These take place in all categories of growth.

Going into battle as a Christian without being spiritually fit is like a doctor going into surgery without his scapel and training. It's like a mechanic without his tools and experience, or a teacher without her textbooks and sharp mind. Living each day at your very best requires being spiritually fit.



1

1. Learn to think for yourself. Stand up for what you believe. This is, for some, a difficult skill to learn. They worry too much about what others think instead of doing what they know is right. Throughout life, as a teen and as an adult, there will be many people who'll try to influence you to their way of thinking and acting. The ability to think for yourself and stand by your decisions will be a blessing in your life. You will be much happier in the long run and able to make better decisions.

2

2. Use common sense. Your parents have probably mentioned it. Common sense is a part of wisdom; wisdom gives you the ability to see beyond immediate circumstances. The Book of Proverbs is a good place to start in learning the importance of wisdom. "Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And with your wisdom, develop common sense and good judgment" (Proverbs 4:7, *Living Bible*). By practicing common sense and wisdom you avoid mistakes other people have made. You are also able to make the kinds of decisions which help you lead the "good" life.

3

3. To become spiritually stronger, *be willing to learn and grow.* "Every young man who listens to me and obeys my instructions will be given wisdom and good sense" (Proverbs 2:1, *LB*). No one knows all he or she needs to know. Life involves change and adaptation. The ability to learn and grow will help you adjust to events that will occur in your life. You will be better able to help others as well.



Paul M. Schrock Photo



Walt Buller Photo

4

4. Grow the fruit of the Spirit. The passage in Galatians 5:22-25 gives the qualities that accompany life worth living. They result from a life lived for God. You may not exhibit all of the qualities in equal proportion; you may need more practice in some areas. The ability to grow in Christ helps develop the fruit of the Spirit.

5

5. Practice taking a leap of faith. Sometimes thinking just isn't enough. There are times in your life when a solution to a particular problem is difficult to see. In these times you must take a "leap of faith." Trust God to take care of matters.

This doesn't mean you have to do nothing; effort on your part is still required. Continue to live your life, take care of your responsibilities, search for answers. But leave the worrying to God. It's a leap of faith because there's a visible gap between the problem that exists and the solution you see.

6

6. Be available to God for instruction and support. Meditation is important. During this time you may study the Bible, read religious material, and relax. Listen to how you feel. Allow yourself time to think without judgment. It's a time for you and God.

These six suggestions can help you grow and become spiritually fit. Mental, physical, social and spiritual growth are important to Christians. As you grow you'll discover many ways in which God will care for your needs.

God wants you to take care of yourself. A healthy attitude toward yourself makes you ready to handle the tasks you will have. □



Are Cliques CLASSY?

by SUSAN HAND

SCHOOL CLIQUES . . . whether you're in the center of one or on the sidelines, they can affect the way you feel about yourself, about God, and ultimately, even the way you feel about school itself.

Webster's Dictionary defines a clique as "an exclusive group of friends or associates." From this definition you can see the problems of a clique in a nutshell.

Although cliques may provide security and a feeling of belonging, the negative aspects of cliques usually outweigh the positives.

In a magazine article, Dr. Shepherd Goldberg of the Buffalo, New York Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinic states, "Cliques are like a double-edged sword: Those outside them may develop inferiority feelings about their appearance and personality, while those within may overly depend on the group and not develop their own identities.

"Because cliques set up arbitrary value systems—regarding fashion, hairstyles, even personal opinions—they make the rest feel inferior if they don't measure up.

"The point to remember," Dr. Goldberg continues, "is that the value systems they set up are arbitrary. They aren't necessarily right or wrong."

What about teens inside the "in" crowd? How do they fare as members of an exclusive group? The truth is, cliques may exact a price from their members, and often that price is a teen's individuality. Tara, 17, made this discovery when, after months of trying, she finally was accepted by a certain group.

"I thought I really wanted to be a part of the popular crowd," she remembers. "But it didn't work out. What right do they have to tell me who I can be friends with?"

The pressure to conform is one of the major drawbacks of cliques, but there are others.



Teresa, 16, remembers one that hit her hard.

After having been involved with a popular bunch of kids for three years, one day she found her parents were getting a divorce. "I really needed to talk to someone whom I could trust," she recalls. "I suddenly realized that being in a clique didn't mean anything without having a best friend."

Another problem is that sometimes cliques change and expect you to change too. Kim, 15, a high school sophomore, noticed this happening when she first entered high school. "After my freshman year all my friends started hanging around a tough crowd of guys and took to smoking, drinking, and using drugs. I didn't know what to do. We had been friends since third grade! I didn't feel comfortable around them. They'd changed but that didn't mean I had to."

Dr. Goldberg emphasizes, "If you're secure in your own beliefs, the threat of rejection by a clique shouldn't scare you to the point where you succumb to their pressures."

Too often, we see someone who looks like he has his act together. So we go out of our way to be like this person and in the process, we make ourselves miserable. Who we're trying to be is just not us.

Sometimes we are not happy because we think everyone can do things better than we can. Afraid to make friends, we feel we don't quite measure up. At times, we've been put down by others. This has made us feel inadequate.

We must realize, however, we have special qualities which no one else has. They were given to us through the grace of God.

Keep in mind that being in a clique is not what is truly important. What matters is your own happiness, and that has to come from within. Happiness from within comes from God. If you think of yourself as an individual whose opinions and tastes matter, you'll find the elusive appeal of cliques will diminish.

You'll be glad you're the person God made you, unique as your own fingerprint! □

Are You In a Clique?



	YES	NO
1. Do others consider you and your circle of friends a clique?	_____	_____
2. Is it easy for someone new to become a part of your group?	_____	_____
3. Would you feel uncomfortable sharing your personal problems with others in the group?	_____	_____
4. When someone shares a personal problem with you in confidence, are you able to keep it private?	_____	_____
5. Do you ever find yourself going along with the group when deep down you'd rather not?	_____	_____
6. Would you be strong enough to drop out if your group got into something you didn't approve of?	_____	_____
7. Do you feel you've been able to influence your group in a positive way for Jesus Christ? □	_____	_____

The Two Faces of Hypocrisy

by LANCE COLKMI

GUYS, PICK UP a copy of *Sports Illustrated* and your eye is caught by a dark-skinned, muscle-bound, cigarette-smoking athlete surrounded by adoring females. Don't even think that the advertisement's message sinks in.

Same with you, girls. Forget the gorgeous blonde you saw puffing a tobacco stick in a *People* magazine ad. Don't dare think the cigarette industry is sending you, an exalted teenager, a message.

At least this is what the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company would have you believe. The company recently published a full-page message in a national news magazine which reads, in part:

"We're not surprised if many people feel this way [that R. J. Reynolds advertises to young people]. Nevertheless, we'd like to set the record straight.

"First . . . we don't want young people to smoke.

"Second, research shows that . . . kids just don't pay attention to cigarette ads, and that's exactly as it should be."

Warms the heart, doesn't it?

* * * *

Then there's the House of Seagram. It recently published ads in several national magazines with this message: the typical serving of beer, wine, and distilled spirits each contains the same amount of alcohol.

"We share the same concern of other public spirited groups [American Automobile Association, Citizens for Highway Safety, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse, and others] who believe that the popular misconceptions about beverage alcohol can be dangerous," the page reads.

Alas, *other* groups do not turn around and produce distilled spirits! Is Seagram public-*spirited*? Informing us that the average drink of hard liquor—*their* drink—is no more alcoholic than beer and wine?

"OK" you say. "Cigarette makers and liquor producers are sort of two-faced. So what? I don't drink or smoke anyway."

Maybe not. But you live in a society where wearing just one face, not two, seems almost weird. Nothing's black and white nowadays, just gray.

* * * *

Take last summer's Live Aid extravaganza. Approximately one-fourth of the world's population saw or heard the most complicated live broadcast ever staged. Dozens of rock and roll's biggest stars strutted their stuff. Some 170,000 people packed stadiums in London and Philadelphia to watch it in person.

Costing $7 million to produce, it raised $40 million for the starving masses in Africa. Forty million!

Surely, no one could fault the mega-concert's purpose or results. But what about the means?

What about Tina Turner and Mick Jagger pairing to sing the racy "State of Shock"? What about Madonna—who earlier the same week had been troubled by publication of her nude photos taken a decade earlier—blaring out her erotic ideas? What about the flashy dance steps by Hall and Oates, the same Hall and Oates whose "Maneater" rock video is filled with violent sexual scenes?

Do good and evil mix? Can darkness produce light? Isn't there something two-faced about what they are doing? Raising big bucks for a desperate physical need in Africa by entertaining millions with antics and lyrics which are deadly to people's spirits?

A distiller's ad warning of alcohol potency is blatantly hypocritical. But what if the same company gives millions of dollars to charity? Do sin and righteousness marry?

Forget companies. Concerts. Charities. Look at individuals.

Some of the best people you know aren't Christians. Doesn't their goodness count for

ood tree cannot bear a fruit, and a bad tree ot bear good fruit. en the light within is. . . ."

something?

The Bible says that, for non-Christians, "all . . . righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6, *New International Version*). Even $40 million acts!

* * * *

It's all a matter of the heart. Solomon wrote, "As water reflects a man's face, so a man's heart reflects the man" (Proverbs 27:19, *NIV*). Look deeply: Is love for God their motive? Or publicity?

Jesus probably thinks of today's do-gooders as He felt about the religious leaders of His day: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men" (Mark 7:6, 8; *NIV*). Today's traditions are charitable giving, looking good in other's eyes, doing what is right in your own eyes, and, when necessary, wearing two faces.

Jesus continued, "A good tree cannot bear a bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 7:18; 6:23; *NIV*).

In the Bible there are no two-faced people; just sinners and former sinners. □



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"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

Running the RACE



The image of the Christian as an athlete is vivid in the New Testament. Biblical writers, especially Paul, were familiar with the rich tradition of the Greek games.

The Olympic Games were the most important ones. They were held every fourth year in Olympia. The second most important were the Isthmian Games. They were held every first and third year of the "olympiad," or every two years, on the Isthmus of Corinth.

Athletic contests were held in foot races of various distances, chariot races, horse races, boxing, wrestling, hurling the discus and javelin, and other competitive sports. Baseball, football, and basketball had not been invented then so the five most prominent events were leaping, discus throwing, boxing, wrestling, and racing.

Greek athletes engaged in intense training. For ten months the competitor exercised and practiced rigid self-discipline in order to participate in the games. They ran in the *stadium* and the word became the Greek unit for measuring distance. The prize was a chaplet, a garland of laurel, pine, ivy, or parsley leaves that soon withered and faded.

Many Bible scholars agree that Paul was probably in Corinth during the Isthmian Games in the spring of 53 A.D. Although he made a reference to boxing (1 Corinthians 9:27), the event that left the greatest impression on him must have been racing. Throughout his writings he made repeated references to the runner or the race.

A striking example is Philippians 3:13, 14, *New International Version*. "Forgetting what is behind," this intense competitor says through clenched teeth, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

What a prize! So important is it that this is the reason God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Have a group Bible study on "Running the Race" (pages 15, 16). See how you score on self-esteem (page 16).

LOOK IN THE WORD

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Galatians 5:7, 1 Timothy 4:7, 8, 2 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 12:1-7, 2 John 9 (use NIV)

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE	SCRIPTURES	APPLICATION
In the Christian race, you run to win.	"Do you now know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize" *(1 Corinthians 9:24).*	*If only one person could go to heaven and I wanted to be the one I would*
To win, you run the right course.	"Let us run . . . the race marked out for us" *(Hebrews 12:1).*	*Just being sincere isn't enough because*
To win, you follow the rules.	"If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules" *(2 Timothy 2:5).*	*Some way I can learn God's rules:*
You run the Christian race before an audience.	"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses . . . let us run with perseverance the race" *(Hebrews 12:1).*	*Some who are watching my Christian life:*
To win, spiritual training is required.	"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. . . . to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" *(1 Corinthians 9:25).*	*To me, spiritual training means:*

Godly living does not come naturally.	"Train yourself to be godly. . . . Godliness has value . . . for both the present life and the life to come" *(1 Timothy 4:7, 8).*	*Godly living has value in this life because*
The Christian runs light.	"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" *(Hebrews 12:1).*	*These things hinder me from being victorious:*
Some people can hinder you.	"You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?" *(Galatians 5:7).*	*For my spiritual health, I will limit deliberate association with*
You can outrun God.	"Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God" *(2 John 9).*	*To know the teaching of Christ, I will*
You have to master yourself.	"I beat my body and make it my slave so that . . . I myself will not be disqualified for the prize" *(1 Corinthians 9:27).*	*Some things I need to work on in order to be in control:*

"We have to discipline our bodies: it is one of the facts of life that often spiritual depression springs from nothing else than physical unfitness. We have to discipline our minds; it is one of the tragedies of life that men may refuse to think until they become incapable of thinking. We must discipline our souls; we can do so by facing life's sorrows with calm endurance, its temptations with the strength God gives, its disappointments with courage."—William Barclay

EVALUATING YOUR SELF-ESTEEM

	YES	NO
1. I've received from my parents all the love I've needed. . . .	_____	_____
2. I'm no more self-conscious than the average person. . . .	_____	_____
3. I'm seldom terribly critical of people. . . .	_____	_____
4. I have as many friends as I'd like. . . .	_____	_____
5. When someone I know does something really stupid, it doesn't bother me. . . .	_____	_____
6. I get as much out of life as I think I deserve. . . .	_____	_____
7. I haven't been bothered by very many physical or emotional problems. . . .	_____	_____
8. I trust most people without difficulty. . . .	_____	_____
9. I am probably no more sensitive than most people. . . .	_____	_____
10. It seldom occurs to me that people might be laughing at me. . . .	_____	_____
11. I don't get my feelings hurt very easily. . . .	_____	_____
12. Most people won't let you down if you get in a bind. . . .	_____	_____
13. I'm not easily discouraged. . . .	_____	_____
14. I don't give in to others unless I'm convinced I'm wrong. . . .	_____	_____
TOTALS	_____	_____

A. How to Score

—Give yourself two points for each "Yes" answer and one point for each "No" answer.

—Add the points in each column.

—Subtract the "No" column total from the "Yes" column total for your final score.

B. What It Means

—*22 to 28 points:* Your self-esteem is exceptional. You know who you are in Christ. Be on the alert for subtle indications of pride or self-righteousness. Read Proverbs 16:1-7 (*New International Version*).

—*16 to 21 points:* You have a high degree of self-acceptance. This makes it easy for you to accept others. Always be aware of Ephesians 2:4-9 (*NIV*).

—*8 to 15 points:* Your self-esteem rating is very good. You are able to adapt to almost any situation. A healthy outlook makes you well liked. Read Galatians 6:1-5 (*NIV*).

—*6 to 7 points:* Your level of self-acceptance is average. You need to remind yourself constantly of who you are as a child of God. Read Psalm 100 (*NIV*).

—*Less than 6:* You have a rather weak self-image. Ask God to help you see yourself as He wants you to be. Seek the help of a Christian in whom you have confidence. Read Psalm 139:13-18 (*NIV*). □

Nine Ways to Get the Cat Out of Your



STOMACH:

(How to Live Creatively)

State Overseer of Louisiana, the author is a prolific writer with a keen understanding of what makes life worthwhile. . . .

by FLOYD D. CAREY

I HEARD THE humorous story of a teenager who thought he had a cat in his stomach. The hallucination was so real he could feel the animal moving around and scratching inside. One day he had an attack of appendicitis and went to the hospital for surgery.

The doctor conceived a brilliant idea on how to cure the teen's illusion. He secured a beautiful black cat and waited for the moment the patient would regain consciousness. When the teenager opened his eyes, the doctor held up the cat triumphantly and announced, "We got the cat! Here it is! Now you won't be troubled any more."

The patient stared a moment and with a look of dismay exclaimed, "How awful! You got the wrong one, the cat that was troubling me was white!"

The teen in this story didn't want his problem to be solved. The "cat complex" gave him identity, a sense of uniqueness. It furnished a base from which he could complain and continue to live in his own little illusionary world.

What's your problem? Is it black or white? Are you willing to face it?

The inward strength to face problems head-on is a quality that undergirds success. Success has been defined as "a continuous journey toward achieving predetermined, worthwhile goals." This process is important to you and to your happiness. It represents your dreams to be something, to do something, and to belong to something.

You can face your opportunities head-on. Let's refer to them as opportunities instead of problems. You have heard the fable that a cat has nine lives. In order to dispel all doubts about the "cat" in your life, I want to list nine ways to remove it and live creatively:

1. MOUNT UP . . . *with divine insight and strength.* Begin by recognizing that you have a partner—the Lord of life! He will give you insight to understand the scope of your opportunities and strength to develop them. Read Isaiah 40:31. When you mount up, you are able to view the top side of the opportunity in sunlight, instead of the bottom side in darkness.

2. HANG UP . . . *hang-ups about achieving success.* You must believe that there is room at the top for you and that you can make it. You can make it because you are a person of value and worth, made in the image of God. You can make it because God has endowed you with skills and abilities to think, to create, and to achieve. Form a picture in your mind with you at the top. View this picture daily!

3. STORE UP . . . *heart power and seeds of greatness.* The Bible is your guidebook to seeking the kingdom of God (the ways of God) first; then wisdom and wealth will be given to you. Review Psalm 119:11 and Matthew 6:33. Heart power develops as you read the Bible with a receptive spirit. You begin to think beautiful thoughts, entertain challenging goals, and contemplate bold moves of faith.

4. MAKE UP . . . *your mind to be a person of action and discipline.* "If it is to be, it is up to me." Write down the goals you want to achieve and how you plan to make them a reality. Then, keep a daily check on your progress. Discipline yourself to act; do it today! Motivate yourself to act. Say, "God is doing a wonderful work through me."

5. HOOK UP . . . *with successful, positive persons.* You cannot develop a winning spirit by spending your time with losers. Learn from achievers by observing their techniques, by asking probing questions, by studying operational patterns, and by absorbing their zest for making it happen. The twelve apostles knew the value of this method of growth.

6. PICK UP . . . *resource materials on personal development.* Read . . . learn . . . apply . . . grow. Let the people at the top share with you how they got there. Suggestions: *The Miracle of Motivation,* George Shinn, (Tyndale House); *See You At the Top,* Zig Ziglar, (Pelican Publishing Company); and *Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do,* Robert Schuller, (Thomas Nelson Publishers).

7. PUT UP . . . *a defense against discouragement.* There will be rainy days, but you can always have an umbrella ready! You must stay enthused—turned on—about life and reaching your goals. Family and friends can support you, but you are responsible to make it happen. Enthusiasm means "full of God." Enthusiasm is fuel for faith. It's a mental attitude that fires you up and nurtures confidence, expectation, and daring courage.

8. STAND UP . . . *and announce your plans and achievements.* Sharing goals with others makes you accountable. Sharing successes stimulates unrest and fresh desire among peers. When you take a stand, it increases self-confidence, conditions your mind for advancement, and focuses attention on worthy projects.

9. MOVE UP . . . *the ladder of success patiently step-by-step.* You live one day at a time under God, with trust and hope. Take one step at a time up the ladder of success with imagination, determination, and calculated commitment. Expect to hear "good news" every day. Engage in positive experiences. Meditate on what God is bringing to fruition through you. Always have the "top" clearly in view.

You can respond positively to the opportunities of life and live creatively.

Accept the challenge! □

Reach Out and TOUCH A MISSIONARY

by VIRGINIA LILLEY



Hi, my name is Gin Lilley. I'd like to talk to you a few minutes about visiting other countries.

A few years ago I felt I wasn't doing enough for God. Nor was I being responsible for souls being brought to Christ. Oh, I worked in my church, all right. I taught a kindergarten class in Sunday school, worked in Ladies Ministries, served on the Christian Education Board and did various other jobs. But that wasn't enough.

So I began to pray, "God, please let my life count for

something. I've tried to be a good witness before my family and they don't seem to share my zeal and love for You. I haven't really won any to You that I know of, so help me find something to do. Give me a burden for something really worthwhile."

The more I prayed, the more the loneliness of missionaries and their needs came to me. I was especially burdened about their need to hear from home. So I took some birth dates from the book, *Meet Your Missionaries,* and sent a few birthday cards.

What could I say to those people whom I'd never met, and perhaps would never meet? I merely introduced myself as I have to you today. "Hi, I'm Gin Lilley. Birthday greetings from Pennsylvania!" Then I told them a little about my church and that I would pray for them.

I never expected to hear from any of them, but one day a letter came from Lorraine Alton in Panama. Can you believe it? Since that time I have followed Lorraine from Panama to Africa, to South America, to Cleveland, Tennessee. At the General Assembly that year I had the privilege of meeting Sister Alton. What a thrill it was for me! Soon I was sending birthday cards to nearly all the missionary wives whose birth dates were in the little book.

A little later I met the Reverend Jim O. McClain and he sent me a complete list of all the missionaries with their addresses.

Replies began coming in response to the cards. They often asked questions, indicating to me that they would like me to write again. So I did. My only regret is that I have not been able to correspond with my Spanish brothers and sisters since I don't know the language.

* * * *

Have you any idea what it's like to be thousands of miles from your family and friends? To be living in a strange culture, tending to the sick, teaching with little or no material, and feeling so helpless as you see the needs of those who are looking to you for help? Perhaps weeks go by without a word of encouragement from the people who are supposed to be holding you up in prayer. Missionaries are precious people who have yielded to the call of God to minister to our brothers and sisters in every nation. They need to hear that we have not forgotten. They need to know we're praying for them. They need to know we have them in our thoughts.

For one reason or another, you and I may not minister in a foreign mission field. But perhaps God would have us minister to the missionary who is in the field. I never thought of sending cards and letters to missionaries as a ministry until the General Assembly, when I was told by missionaries that they consider my work a ministry to them.

Do you want to be a blessing and receive a blessing? Want to make new friends? How about traveling and learning about other cultures?

Get your pen and a sheet of paper or a birthday card. Christmas is just around the corner, send a missionary brother or sister a Christmas card.

In one night you can travel to many countries. You'll forget your problems and be a tremendous blessing to many others.

Missionaries need us. We need them. Together we are laborers in God's vineyard! □

NOTE: A listing of missionaries, with mailing addresses, may be obtained from Church of God World Missions, Box 2430, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. Ask for *Church of God Leaders in World Evangelism.* □

HE BURNED HIS BOATS



by ROSCOE BARNES III

The "Cortez dilemma" is common to collegians. There's only one way out. . . .

Cortez had a serious problem.

Early in 1519, he had sailed on a long voyage from Spain to Mexico. He wanted only to conquer. His men often suffered from homesickness and fear of failure.

When he arrived in Mexico, he burned his ships behind him! This act committed his entire force to survival through conquest. That same year, Hernando Cortez became a conqueror.

Students often travel great distances to attend college. Their obvious purpose is to excel; they



want to conquer in the land of education, economics, Christianity, and social well-being. Soon after their arrival on campus, however, they are tempted to retreat.

Why?

Sometimes it's a fear of failure. Or the threat of homesickness. Financial crisis, as well as loneliness, causes misgivings. These struggles are not peculiar to you, however; we are all in the same boat.

But we can't stop now, and refuse to accept our problems. We can and must face them.

We must burn our boats!

Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Paul exemplified this principle in his Philippian statement: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Philippians 3:13).

I sat in my room at East Coast Bible College one day, pondering my "Cortez dilemma." With my wife and two boys in Mississippi and finances mounting, I felt that retreating to Mississippi was the only answer.

Before long the Holy Spirit reminded me of a song I'd heard. The words are so real:

He [God] didn't bring us
this far to leave us.
He didn't teach us to swim
to let us drown.
He didn't build His home
in us to move away.
He didn't lift us up to let
us down.

Commitment is the word. It obligates us to responsibility. We are to forget the past, in a progressive sense, and commit ourselves to future endeavors. How we view the past will determine how we face the future.

Smith Wigglesworth said: "I'd rather die believing than live doubting." That's like saying, "I'll die in bravery rather than live in cowardice."

Determination, coupled with prayer, builds our life and guarantees success in college.

I have decided to *burn my boat* and commit myself to conquest. God didn't bring me to school to leave me. □

RESOURCES

PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN YOUTH MINISTRY
by Darrell Pearson
Victor Books, 1985, $4.95 (paper)

Too often young people live in one world at home and in another world at church or with the youth group, according to Darrell Pearson. This book is written to help bridge the gap between the two worlds. It will help youth works meet the needs and enlist the support of parents. It will help parents get involved in youth work.

PARENTS AND TEENAGERS
Jay Kesler, Editor
Victor Books, 1984, $14.95 (cloth)

This 693-page volume is an encyclopedia on parent-teen relationships. Edited by the former president of Youth for Christ, the book has contributions from 73 authors, each with a different background and specialization. Seven major sections begin with "What You Should Know About Parents" and conclude with "Handling Everyday Conflicts." Where else can you find help on such diverse topics as "Who should pay for extra car expenses," "Why teens get depressed," "Lighting a fire under lazy teens," "Handling the sting of ridicule," and many others? An important resource.

BIBLE STUDY CAN BE EXCITING
by Mary Gravin
Zondervan Publishing, 1976, $2.95 (paper)

This guide offers several models for small group Bible discussion. Sample studies with material on leadership and goals make this paperback especially helpful.

COUNSELING TEENAGERS
by Dr. Keith Olson
Group Books, 1984, $19.95 (cloth)

This complete resource book is written for youth leaders, teachers, and parents. Dr. Olson takes a broad, but detailed, look at the whole teenager. You will use this resource over and over again.

TAKE FIVE: Daily Devotion for October

October 1—Matthew 1:21-23
October 2—Philippians 2:5-11
October 3—John 20:30, 31
October 4—John 14:1-6
October 5—Isaiah 9:7
October 6—Luke 8:19-21
October 7—Luke 18:18, 19
October 8—Acts 10:36-38
October 9—Matthew 8:1-4
October 10—John 17:4-6
October 11—John 15:1-4
October 12—Matthew 8:16, 17
October 13—1 Peter 2:20-24
October 14—Hebrews 10:23-25
October 15—Isaiah 7:14-16
October 16—John 1:1-4
October 17—1 Timothy 1:12-15
October 18—1 Peter 2:7-10
October 19—Revelation 1:5, 6
October 20—Titus 2:11-14
October 21—1 Corinthians 1:1-5
October 22—Mark 1:9-11
October 23—Matthew 2:1-6
October 24—Luke 2:1-14
October 25—Luke 1:76-80
October 26—Matthew 17:1-6
October 27—Mark 6:1-3
October 28—Matthew 18:2-6
October 29—Matthew 19:13-15
October 30—John 20:26-29
October 31—Revelation 22:18-21

I SEE LOVE

I see love in a baby's face,
at mealtime when a child
says grace.

I see love in a helping hand
to a missionary in a
distant land.

I see love in my parents'
eyes in bright hello's,
in sad goodbyes.

But the love that means the
most, you see, is the love
that Jesus has for me.

—Vicky Creech



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TOP 10 GOSPEL FAVORITES

This is a *Lighted Pathway* listing of top best selling gospel records and tapes.

1. **Unguarded**
   Amy Grant / Myrrh
2. **He Holds the Keys**
   Steve Green / Sparrow
3. **Comin' On Strong**
   Carman / Myrrh
4. **I've Just Seen Jesus**
   Larnelle Harris / Impact
5. **Fully Alive**
   The Bill Gaither Trio / Word
6. **More Than Wonderful**
   Sandi Patti / Impact
7. **7**
   David Meece / Myrrh
8. **Beat the System**
   Petra / Star Song
9. **Life the Roof Off**
   The Hinsons / Calvary
10. **Michael W. Smith Project**
    Michael W. Smith / Reunion

Others: **Amy Grant,** *Amy Grant / Myrrh;* **Kingsmen Better In Person,** *The Kingsmen / Benson;* **Let the Wind Blow,** *The Imperials / Myrrh;* **It Runs In the Family,** *The Hinsons / Calvary*

CHRISTIAN VIDEOS

Here is a listing of the most popular videos being rented in Pathway Bookstores.

1. **The Hiding Place**
2. **Live Concert**
   Sandi Patti
3. **Amy Grant In Concert**
   Amy Grant
4. **Time To Run**
5. **The Ten Commandments**
   The Reliability of Scripture
   Josh McDowell

Youth Leader Workshop:

INVADING THE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

by RICHARD DIAL



The high school campus is scary. It's not scary to students because it's their home turf. But to a church youth leader, it's an alien field with a seemingly hostile home crowd.

There's the administration. They look skeptically at any outsider who might wander into their kingdom. We're told the faculty is composed of agnostics who are indoctrinating our young people with atheistic secular humanism. And the students are noisy. Irreverent. Strange acting. Weird dressing.

It's no wonder a God-fearing, sin-hating, Bible-believing youth leader would want to stay away from such a depraved place!

But God has called us to "go into all the world," and the youth leader's world includes the high school campus. Actually, it's his place of opportunity, his mission field. His attitude about the high school will determine his ministry.

Youth leaders resent the insinuation they are nothing more than glorified baby-sitters, but sometimes the accusation is valid. Entertaining the same young people week after week *is* glorified baby-sitting and Jesus didn't call you for that. He did call you to be radical in your approach to discipleship and kingdom building.

The high school campus is not to be avoided but invaded. God has chosen the youth leader to be out front, leading the troops.

Where does a high school ministry start? It begins with you. Discipleship is setting the example, leading the way. Not just telling, but doing; not just sharing, but showing how. Your young people won't get excited about sharing their faith until they see their youth leader setting the example.

You can teach a 52-week series on soulwinning and not move your kids an inch, but if you come to a youth group meeting with a teen you've led



Alan Cliburn Photo

to the Lord, they will sit up and take notice.

So get ready to invade. "Wait a minute," you say. "What do you want me to do? Grab a machine gun, rent a tank, and storm the front doors of good old Central High. Be a religious Rambo?" No, you want to be radical, not retarded.

The first step is to establish your presence on the campus. Broaden your world of influence beyond merely the young people who attend your church. To do this you have to get on the campus.

Most schools have strict policies against uninvited visitors, so you won't be able to walk on campus without authorization. Authorization comes from the principal. Make the principal your friend. How? By helping him with his job.

Make an appointment with the principal. Put on your best Sunday suit. Shine your shoes. Comb your hair. Make sure your tie is free of pizza stains and approach him as one professional to another. You want him to know you're on his side and you are both working for the same goal. You want to help young people.

The reason you want to be on campus is to visit young people from your church. Give him a list of your church kids who attend his school. Tell him you want to get with your young people in a setting outside of church because you need the opportunity to be with them in an informal setting. Ask the principal's permission to eat lunch with your church young people once a week. Ask how they are doing and if there is anything you can do to help in their development.

After you have secured permission, **tell your young people the day you'll be coming and ask them to invite a few of their friends to eat lunch with you.** Be casual. Be laid back, but ask questions. Show you are interested. Listen to what they have to say but eventually steer the conversation around to spiritual things.

Ask them how people feel about things on campus. What's the attitude about drugs, sex, or the future? Don't start with the heavy questions; but after you've established rapport, move to a deeper level. If the Holy Spirit opens the door, share Christ with them. Be sure to extend an invitation to your youth group meeting. Let them know that visitors are welcome and the group will be discussing important topics.

After your luncheon date, **make another appointment with the principal and give him your reactions.** He will appreciate your insights on the campus scene. Let him know you are available to help. Volunteer to act as a non-staff counselor to troubled young people.

Go after opportunities to speak to regular high school classes. Ask your kids for the names of their favorite teachers and what classes they teach. Make a list of topics you feel comfortable with. Call these teachers and offer your services. Many teachers are looking for guest speakers to spice up their classes. Why not you? Be careful not to come off too preachy, for your main objective is to establish contact with nonchurch kids.

Extracurricular activities also offer real opportunities. High school games of basketball, football, track, and baseball; along with concerts, band competition, and theatrical productions all offer times to build relationships with your young people and their school friends. When you go to an event, it's important that you don't just sit in your own world, but mix with the kids. Be yourself and be relaxed, but take the initiative. Most of the time the kids won't come to you.

You should also consider starting an after-school campus ministry. Talk with your young people and test their interest. Find out the policy of your school board. Go back and meet with the principal again, and then develop your strategy. If you are interested, order "Beginning a Campus Ministry" from the Church of God Publishing House.

Go for it. Be different. Break out of your rut. Dream a big dream. Take your high school for Jesus Christ. □



TREATING HALLOWEEN

By MARCUS V. HAND

Alan Cliburn Photo

EVERY OCTOBER ENDS with Halloween. Although it's not a legal holiday, Halloween occupies a prominent place in the yearly calendar.

Schools emphasize it, advertisers capitalize on it, merchants manipulate it, and children love it. All the while, Christians wonder about it.

Obviously Halloween, with its ghosts, goblins, and witches, doesn't seem very Christian, or even religious. How did it begin?

Originally the term meant "Hallowed Evening," before All Saints Day. A record of observing All Saints Day to commemorate saints whose names are not known, exists from A.D. 300. Since the eighth century, it has been observed in the west on November 1. The term "Hallowed Evening" became "hallowed even," "hallowed e'en," and eventually "halloween."

During the Middle Ages it was thought that spirits, witches, and demons were especially active on hallowed evening, roaming the earth because they would be powerless to do so the next day.

The customs of causing mischief and begging for the poor arose in Ireland during the Middle Ages. Those who contributed to the poor were blessed while tightwads were threatened with harm. It wasn't a great distance from there to trick-or-treat. The Irish also gave us the customs of dressing in costumes and putting out jack-o-lanterns.

Since Halloween and its trappings are so visible, how should Christians treat this quasi-holiday?

As readers of the scriptures, we know that the spirit world is real. Still, we don't believe in spooks and ghosts that go bump in the night. Demons are real but Christians aren't afraid of goblins that are ready to pounce on small, unsuspecting children. There are persons who practice witchcraft but if we see a figure of one riding a broomstick across the moon, we know it's probably a prankster using lights and trickery.

You've probably been trick-or-treating many times, but given the current climate in most of our cities, you wouldn't dare permit your little brother or sister to do it today.

Why not take advantage of this season to conduct a Bible study on "Satan, A Defeated Foe." Halloween does remind the world that Satan is real. Search the scriptures and find out what the Bible says about him.

Plan a "Victory Over Satan Party" for Halloween night. Some churches even use the night as a fundraiser for the youth group. Make sure everyone has fun, but end the party with a serious emphasis on the theme.

Make Halloween a "hallowed evening" this year. □



1985 Lee College Homecoming

Saturday, November 9

For the first time in thirty years *Lee College* will celebrate its Homecoming at a time other than Thanksgiving weekend. This means you can have Thanksgiving with your family and still enjoy the warmth and excitement of the *Lee* campus at Homecoming!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, November 8

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7:30 P.M.	Reunion Banquets *Class of '75* *Class of '65* *Classes of '55, '45, '35*
7:30 P.M.	Lee College Talent Search
10:00 P.M.	Bonfire Pep Rally

Saturday, November 9

10:00-Noon	Gourmet Brunch
12:00 Noon	Band Concert
2:00 P.M.	Lee College Homecoming Basketball *Lee Flames vs. Kennesaw Owls*
8:00 P.M.	Music Extravaganza Special Guests: *1975 Lee Singers* *Original Singers III*



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The Caribbean Challenge!





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YWEA '86



The Caribbean Challenge!

by BOB McCALL

YWEA, a ministry of Church of God young people, assists thousands of youth in getting involved in obeying Christ's Great Commission. Introducing this year's project. . . .

"WHAT'S A CARIBBEAN CHALLENGE," asked a young lady, "a tennis match?" "No," came the reply, "it's an opportunity for Church of God young people around the world to learn about the spiritual needs of people in the Caribbean, and the challenge to raise one and a half million dollars through YWEA (Youth World Evangelism Action) to train workers to meet those spiritual needs."

Through YWEA, the General Department of Youth and Christian Education and the World Missions Department involve young people in a special missions project each year. This year focuses on training national workers in the Caribbean.

Stretching from Bermuda off the coast of North Carolina down to the northeastern coast of South America, the Caribbean region is a chain of island nations ripe for the Christian harvest. This region of the world is special to the Church of God. More than 75 years ago R. M. Evans became the church's first missionary when he traveled to the Bahamas in 1910.

Since that time, God has blessed our ministries. Now there are nearly 150,000 Church of

God members in the region. Yet the biggest need throughout the Caribbean today is well-trained national Christian workers to reach the growing population.

The population of the Caribbean is young—60 percent are under age 25. This is a fantastic opportunity to reach a majority of these people while they are still young and open to the gospel.

The majority of the Caribbean people are poor. In some places, the average annual income per person is less than $300. Spiritually, many in the Caribbean are superstitious. They practice voodoo and devil worship. But things are changing. Hundreds of Christian young people are hungry for a good education, and the Church of God wants to meet the challenge of providing it.







Christian workers need to keep in touch with their own culture. Therefore, The Caribbean Challenge is to expand and upgrade educational opportunities for Church of God young people right there in the islands. This is why one of the largest goals ever has been set for YWEA '86—$1.5 million.

Here are some of the things to be done through YWEA '86 and The Caribbean Challenge:

Puerto Rico

In Puerto Rico, our college is the center of a network serving the Spanish-speaking islands of the Caribbean and Central America. There are extension centers in many areas and advanced students come to Puerto Rico to finish their training. There, a new dormitory and more books for the library are needed to keep pace with secular education and the growing needs of the church.

Jamaica

Our school in Jamaica serves those portions of the Caribbean where English is spoken. A new dormitory and classroom buildings are badly needed.

Haiti

In Haiti, there is a need to build four extension centers to train national pastors. Even though the church has a Bible school in Haiti, there is still a need to train those pastors who live in rural areas where most of our churches are located. Extension centers will provide this training right where it is needed.

Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, extension centers are needed to train ministers just as they are in Haiti.

Barbados

In Barbados, a new building is needed for the Bible school. YWEA has accepted the challenge to supply this building.

Here are some of the things that can be done to meet the Caribbean challenge:

1. Pray for "The Caribbean Challenge" on your own, as a youth group, and as a church. Ask your pastor to set aside a special time of prayer emphasis for YWEA '86.

2. Arrange to have a missions seminar. Contact your state director of youth and Christian education for materials to conduct such a seminar. Through these seminars you can learn about missionaries and the work they are doing around the world, especially in the Caribbean area.

3. Learn to be a more effective Christian witness as a member of the Church of God who knows about world missions.

4. Participate in fund-raising activities.

Your state youth and Christian education director, the General Department of Youth and Christian Education, and the World Missions Department have all kinds of educational materials and great fund-raising ideas. For more information contact your state youth and Christian education director or write:

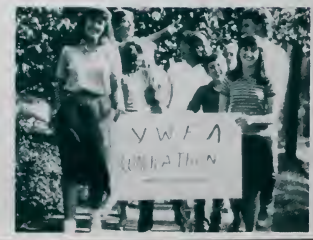
YWEA '86, General Department of Youth and Christian Education, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, Tennessee 37320-2430. □

YWEA 86

The Caribbean Challenge!







MY PLEDGE TO AMERICA

by GINGER SANDERS

I CAN STILL remember my first grade class. Every morning the teacher would say, "Okay class, stand. It's time to say the pledge." We would jump to our feet, place our hands over our hearts and recite, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic. . . ."

So it went. We had to memorize it because the teacher said it was important for us to know. I didn't understand the Pledge of Allegiance then, or why it was important. Now that I'm older and have lived through several periods of national crisis and victories, I'm learning the true meaning of what it is to pledge. Let me share with you my interpretation of the word PLEDGE.

I pledge allegiance to America with a P for PRIDE. I take pride in everything America stands for: pride in our system of democracy, pride in our freedom, pride in our heritage, and pride in the fact that I'm an American! I pledge my pride.

I pledge allegiance to America with an L for LOYALTY. I will always carry this loyalty for America with me. Loyal in times of war and peace. Loyal to America in every critical situation. Loyal to her leaders, even when the elected official is not the candidate of my choice. All are trying to accomplish the same thing—"Freedom and justice for all." I want to be able to hear the laughter of children in the future and I will, if I give to America my loyalty.

I pledge allegiance to America with an E for EQUIPPING. I will equip myself with the proper knowledge of my rights as an American citizen. I will equip myself mentally to know the history of this great nation as well as look forward to the future of it. Herbert J. Taylor once stated, "A good citizen is well informed on local and world affairs. Knowledge is the food of the soul." I pledge to equip myself with knowledge.

I pledge allegiance to America with a D for DARE TO DREAM. I dare to dream of a future with peace and love in the world. I dare to dream of a nation and world with unity and brotherhood. Wendell L. Wilkie declared, "I believe in America because we have great dreams; and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true." My dreams of unity and peace may seem unreachable to you: but, without the seemingly unreachable dreams of the pilgrims and pioneers, would America be where it is today? I pledge to dare to dream.

I pledge allegiance to America with a G for GUARD. I pledge to guard America with every bit of strength I have, whether it be fighting a war against another country or fighting a war against crime in one of our cities. I pledge to guard America.

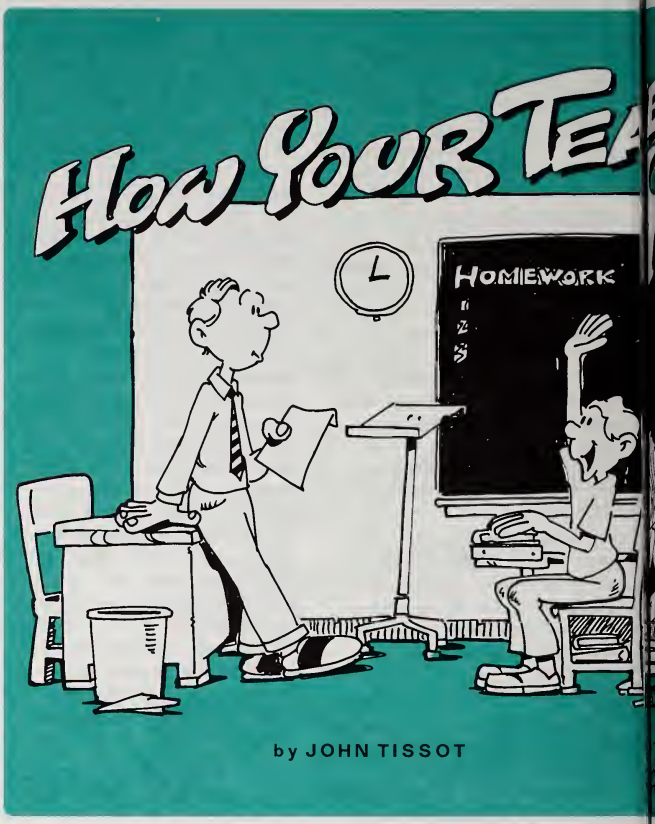
I pledge allegiance to America with an E for EXERCISING MY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. I pledge to exercise the rights given to me as an American citizen. Although I may have all of the other characteristics I have mentioned, when I do not exercise my rights, they are worthless.

I have rights as an American that other citizens in the world have no chance to experience or enjoy. I enjoy *Freedom of the press, Freedom of speech, and most importantly, Freedom of religion.* I can worship God whenever I want and however I want. I have the right to own personal property, the right to a fair trial, and my most valuable right and responsibility, the right to vote in free elections!

The forefathers of this great nation fought hard to secure all of these rights for this country and its people. It is only fair to them that I, an American citizen, take advantage of these rights, responsibilities, and freedoms. I pledge to exercise my rights.

Now when I say the Pledge of Allegiance, I say it with understanding. This understanding strengthens my love and devotion for my America. What will your Pledge to America be? □

Out of 13,000 contestants, Ginger won fifth place in the Illinois Voice of Democracy contest. This is her speech. . . .



Think some of your teachers are weird? What do they think about you?

DO YOU EVER "type" your teachers? Not surprisingly, they find that many of you fall into "types" too.

This is not to say that you are not an individual. I'm a teacher; I'm an individual, too. But in spite of our individuality, we tend to share behavior traits. And when we teachers generalize about you, what do we see?

It may seem strange to you, but I first notice the student who chooses his seat at the rear of the room. I call this student the **invisible man.** He or she comes into class with a cluster of other students, finds a seat in the back, opens a book, and tries to hide his head until another student sits in front of him. Then he adjusts his seating position so that his head is completely cut off from my view. Now he can relax, believing I don't see him. But I do. Most competent teachers do. We worry about him, too.

What causes our concern? The *invisible man* never volunteers a thing in class—never an answer, not even an opinion. Perhaps he's shy. Or lazy. Maybe he thinks his opinions don't count, but he shouldn't feel this way. When I see him trying to look casual and avoiding my glance, I think up some question related to the subject at hand. I try to get some sort of opinion or answer relative to the homework that will cause this student to form an opinion or look for an idea.

You know, finding an idea in the back of your head is like eating one peanut. It's impossible to stop with just one. Where there is one idea, there is another. I know that after a while my "unseen" student will gain confidence in expressing his ideas on written tests. He will find it isn't so bad to prepare the homework; ideas don't have to be avoided like the black plague. Good grades will follow him for the rest of his school life.

Another type of student I notice almost at once is the **personality kid**. He is the student who monopolizes my time at the beginning and end of each class. After I get this charmer seated, he starts to take up all the time of students around him.

It's refreshing to find students who are not afraid to speak out. When he overdoes it, though, I begin to wonder. Often I find him to be a student who feels insecure. Students going to a class for the first time, meeting a new-to-them teacher, often feel



uncertain. This is natural. I try to set my class at ease, telling what I expect from students, telling them I will try at all times to be fair and impartial.

But the *personality kid,* fearing he won't make top grades on the basis of his performance, tries to butter me up. He makes me nervous. If anything, I grade this student's papers a trifle more severely. I can't help it; the student has pushed me into this position.

There's a solution to this whole embarrassing problem. Be yourself. Have confidence that you can do the work as well as you hope. Don't spend all your energies trying to snow your teachers when you should be spending the same energy on your work. Who knows? If you give your work a decent try, you may even enjoy it. The guy who goes for his first swimming lesson isn't sure he's going to like having water get up his nose and into his ears and eyes. After a while, he doesn't mind at all. Give yourself a chance to stand on your own feet.

It takes a little longer for me to spot **Sloppy Joe** or **Sloppy Jane.** When class is over and the students have left, I stop for a moment and look at the floor. What is that mess? It isn't snow; the season is wrong. No, I see it now: bits of paper scattered over a radius of three feet. Now, I'll have to pick it up. I can't leave it for the next class. The custodian is busy enough picking up "unintentional" dirt. Why saddle him with paper snow? One thing sure, I'll catch the culprit tomorrow if he does it again.

But litter is often a symptom of a more serious problem. Students who are careless with things often prove to be careless in their work habits and in their thoughts too. Is there a challenging question in the homework? Have I asked a question that requires thinking? Have I made it too easy for him to toss out the first idle thought that passes through his brain without checking to see whether it is worthy of being said out loud. And isn't that why we have so many problems today? It's easier to act first and think later—or never!

Worse, *Sloppy Joe* always has to fiddle with his shoes when I'm explaining something new. Like Mary looking for her lamb, he can never find his pencil or pen when he needs it. When the rest of the class is racing to put their thoughts on paper, he's still wondering what the problem is.

Is there hope for *Sloppy Joe?* Of course. Neatness and orderliness can become a way of doing and thinking if we really want it. It's a matter of facing up to the fact that these two traits are necessary. I'm not saying that a picnic on the beach must be as prim as an eighteenth century drawing room tea. But think about it: would *Sloppy Joe* or *Sloppy Jane* like to undergo brain surgery performed by a Doctor Sloppy?

There's an old saying: "A place for everything and everything in its place." In these days of small apartments and many possessions, it's difficult to live out this saying completely. Sometimes my desk at school and my desk at home get piled high in a disorder that begs to be straightened out. We all must make some effort toward orderly thought if we are to solve our problems, whether they are personal or global.

A good place to begin is the classroom. Be prepared. Clean up after yourself. Get that engine—your brain—revved up before class starts.

How do your teachers see you? Are you satisfied with their image of you? Is a teacher wrong about you? If so, prove it. Start tomorrow. Show that you can be "the kid who does things right." □



THIS TEEN TALENT CAMP IS A FIRST

Interest in Teen Talent is growing as young people across the church point toward the 1986 General Assembly in Atlanta. . . .

YOUTH CAMP IS a "don't miss" for Church of God youth. So is Teen Talent. Combine the two and you have a Teen Talent Camp.

That's just what State Youth Director Harry Miller did in Virginia last summer.

The church's first Teen Talent Camp convened at the state campground in Roanoke. Miller and the state youth and Christian education board planned it for August to avoid conflict with the full summer of camp activities already scheduled.

In anticipation of the 1986 General Assembly in Atlanta, the camp taught techniques and emphasized skills to persons with interest in participating in Teen



The Reverend Harry Miller is state director of youth and Christian education in Virginia.

"We plan to have a Teen Talent Camp every two years, between General Assemblies. . . ."

Talent. This intense week of hands-on workshops focused on music, Bible, drama, writing, and art. Campers attended from several states. The fact that they already had a vested interest in the workshops they had selected made for a smooth-running camp.

Music workshops were conducted in six categories: vocal solo, vocal ensemble, choir, instrumental solo/keyboard, instrumental solo/non-keyboard, and instrumental ensemble. Instructors and speakers included Danny Murray, former national Teen Talent coordinator and music specialist; Dr. Delton L. Alford, director of music for Pathway Music Company; and Mike Baker, national Teen Talent coordinator and program director for Forward in Faith.

Many campers had a keen interest in the Teen Talent Bible division. Workshops focused on Bible reading, Bible teaching, and Bible quizzing. Participants learned techniques of memorization as well as how to better use the electronic quizzing equipment during competition. Coordinating these workshops were Richard Davis and Michael Bevins, who coached the national champions in 1984.

The creative arts workshops focused on ceramics and glass, graphics, layout and design, drawing, oil/acrylic painting, wet media painting, photography, sculpture, textiles, and mixed media. These workshops were coordinated by Ida Simpson, an outstanding artist and art teacher. She is chairperson of the art department at Garfield High School in Garfield, Virginia.

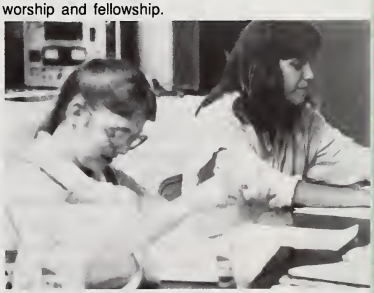
The creative writing and drama workshops were coordinated by Sonjia Hunt, FTH coordinator in the General Department of Youth and Christian Education. Campers learned, but they also participated. They were given opportunity to practice their skills under the guidance of persons involved in Teen Talent on the national level.

Although the mornings were filled with workshops, the afternoons were left free for recreation or for private tutoring by the instructors. Each day concluded with an evening worship service. The Reverend Ron Scott, state director of Chicago Metro, was camp evangelist. Danny Murray and Harvest from Lee College sang each night. The highlight of the week was the Friday night Gospel Music Spectacular concert. This was a community-wide event open to the public featuring Harvest, as well as other prominent groups.

Other guests were the Reverend Junus Fulbright, assistant general director of youth and Christian education; and the Reverend Marcus V. Hand, editor of *Lighted Pathway*. The Reverend Carl E. Allen, state overseer, was highly visible and supportive of the program.

State Director Miller said, "I feel it was a very successful venture. Since it was the first time for this type of camp, it is obvious I will do some things differently next time. We plan to have a Teen Talent Camp every other year, between General Assemblies." □

Tami Frazier and Cindy Smith participate in a workshop on writing. Bottom: Evenings were devoted to worship and fellowship.







12 Ways to Say Merry Christmas

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City _____
State/Zip _____

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____ (Please print all information)
Street _____
City _____
State/Zip _____

"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).

HEALING A HURTING WORLD

THE CURSE OF BABEL (read Genesis 11:1-9) still haunts us. Unfortunately, language differences drive wedges between ethnic and geographical segments of the human family. Only the miracle of Pentecost brings us back together in perfect unity.

Newspapers, radio, and television keep us aware of what is happening in the remotest parts of the earth. We hear about wars, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, droughts, floods, famines, and epidemics.

Half the people in developing countries suffer, in some degree, from hunger and malnutrition. A fourth of the children die before they are five. Millions survive and lead only half-lives because their brain has been damaged and their growth retarded by nutritional deficiencies.

The hurts of humanity are real!

Confronted by pain and agony, we become aware of our own helplessness. We feel frustrated. We cannot help others as we would like, so we become numb. We get angry when someone talks about "global responsibility." Why should anyone, even God, hold us responsible for conditions we can't control?

The problem is that we tend to see God only against the background of our own culture. We want to make Him like us. Americans often see God as a cosmic American with western values, insights, and cultural preferences. But God speaks a different language, a universal language.

His language is the language of compassion. To learn compassion we must begin by accepting responsibility—not for the illnesses and sins of the world, but for telling the world that there is a cure!

You and I are products of the last half of the 20th century. A child of change, our neighborhood is the world. It is not restricted by solitary streets or corporate limits. Born day before yesterday, we are taught to challenge facts and philosophies. We are trained to be inquisitive. This is why we want to know about the Cachequel of Guatemala, the Masai of Kenya, the sophisticate of Buenos Aires, the suburbanite of Paris, the slum dweller of London. They all live in our neighborhood.

Listen carefully and you can hear the soft sobbing of a starving soul in Ethiopia or the Sahel. Pause for a minute and you can feel the inexplicable pain of a pilgrim in India returning from his shrine, wondering if there really is a God in the universe.

Suddenly, you know in the deepest recesses of your being that somehow you are responsible for getting the Good News to every man.

This is why we participate in

YWEA

"The same Good News that came to you is going out all over

YWEA Progra

YWEA A ministry of Church





Since its inception in 1957, YWEA (Youth World Evangelism Action) has been a catalyst for church growth and the expansion of the kingdom around the world. This map locates each project.

CHURCHES
BIBLE SCHOOLS AND SEMINARIES
REGIONAL PROJECTS
SPECIAL PROJECTS

rld and changing lives everywhere" (Colossians 1:6, *Living Bible*).

r Map

ple





Rev. Luke R. Summers, Superintendent of the Caribbean



YWEA 86

The 1985-86 project is "The Caribbean Challenge." Some of the purposes are to erect a dormitory for a Bible school in Puerto Rico, build a dormitory and classroom building at a Bible school in Jamaica, provide facilities for four centers in which to train national pastors in Haiti, build extension centers in the Dominican Republic, and erect a new building for a Bible school in Barbados. For more information, contact your pastor or state director of youth and Christian education; or, you may write YWEA, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311



Find the YWEA PROJECTS

P	O	R	T	A	U	P	R	I	N	C	E	P	P
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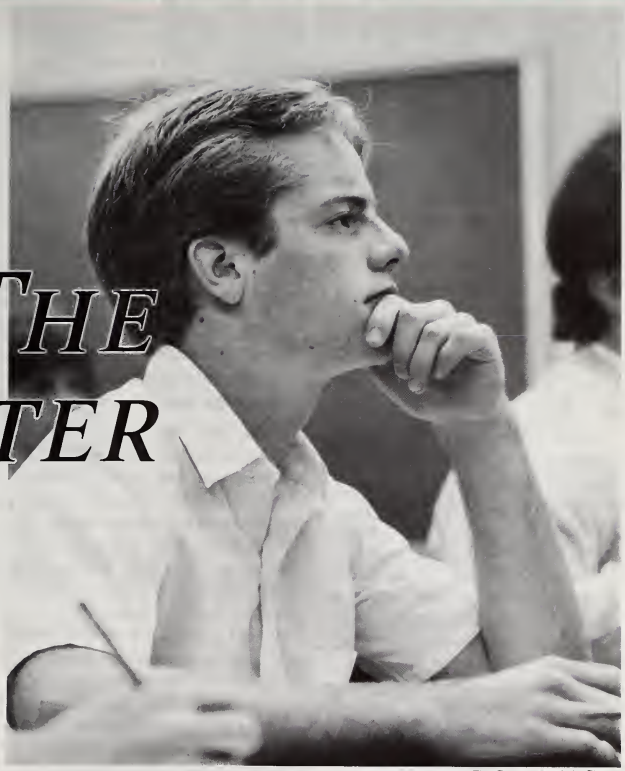
FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

youth	India	Nassau	Manila
Tokyo	Pearl Harbor	Durban	Mexico City
South Africa	New York	Africa	Hermosillo
Managua	project	Europe	Gallup
Djakarta	Bombay	YWEA	Rudersberg
Panama	Port-au-Prince	center	South America
Seoul	San Salvador	Brasilia	Caribbean

UNICEP Photo

THE LETTER

Thoughts on taking your Father at His word. An allegory. . . .



The Downstairs Attic Photo

by RUSSELL J. ASVITT

CHRIS WAS LYING on his bunk with his head propped up on a pillow, reading a textbook when his roommate, Ernest, came in with the mail.

"Here, Chris," he said, "this is for you."

"Thanks, Ernie," Chris said as he took the letter, opened it, and carefully read to himself.

Dear Christopher:

Your mother and I are very pleased that you decided to go to college and complete your education. We have agreed to give you complete financial support so you will not have to spend time working, as this might keep you from your studies. We want you to devote as much time as possible to improve yourself. We have heard that many students waste their time and money off campus. Please stay clear of them. If you

waste it, we will stop sending you extra spending money. I am looking forward to your graduation so you can join me in my business. One day you will inherit it all.

With all our love,

Dad

Perplexed, Chris folded the letter, returned it to the envelope, and started for the door with it still in his hand.

"Where are you going?" Ernest asked.

"I'm going to see my professors about the meaning of Father's letter."

"But, if it's from your father, why—"

The door slammed and Chris was gone.

"Well, Christopher," his history professor said, studying the letter, "your father seems to want you to improve yourself. But I have to have a little more information about your family background to interpret the letter properly. When he says 'improve yourself,' is he referring to your educational opportunity, or is he concerned about your social standing, or perhaps your financial security? If you could just provide me with more environmental information, I'm sure I could help you decipher the letter."

Chris stared at the man and shrugged. "Thanks anyway, Professor," Chris said, and left the office. His next stop was the study of his philosophy professor.

"Will you help me interpret this letter?"

"Be glad to," the Ph.D. said. "Let's see. *Many students waste their time.* That's an interesting concept. What is time? Today was tomorrow yesterday, and tomorrow will be today tomorrow. So you see time is constantly changing. As for wasting it, how is it possible to waste something that is always with us, and is constantly changing? You see, your father is simply stating an opinion that he wants to share with you. It is interesting reading, but don't draw any definite conclusions until you have read a lot of other concepts. You need a broader base of information for your full development."

"Well, yeah . . . thanks," Chris said, a bit bewildered, as he left the teacher's study.

Next stop, the theology department.

As the theologian slowly read through the letter, he frowned.

"My, my!" he exclaimed. "I'm sure your father didn't mean to frighten you, but he does have some serious inconsistencies in his letter. He closes his epistle, *With all our love*, and yet he also says, *I will stop sending you money.* Certainly he can't mean that. He can't love you and withhold anything from you. He also says, *stay clear of other students.* Yet he wants you to go to all your classes. How can you do that if there are other students attending the classes. Come to think of it, I don't think your father wrote this letter. Statistics show that the majority of letters written to students are written by mothers to their sons. I think the clue is in the first sentence, *Your mother and I are very pleased.* It appears that your mother wrote the letter and honestly and sincerely signed your father's name to give it an element of authority. Of course there's nothing wrong with that, but you should be made aware of it. I hope that this will be of some help to you."

"Yes . . . thanks," Chris replied.

It's funny, it sure looks like my father's handwriting, Chris mused as he slouched on his bunk.

Ernest, looking up from the desk, eyed his roommate carefully. "You look confused, Chris."

"I am," he answered. "I didn't know there were so many different ways to interpret a letter."

"Can I read it?" Ernest asked.

"Sure. Here, take it."

Ernest carefully read the letter. "Hey, that's great!" he said. "Your folks are going to pay all your tuition and give you spending money too. You won't have to scrounge for a job. And your father says that when he retires you'll inherit his business. Aren't you excited?"

"Is that what it means?"

"That's what it says, doesn't it?"

"Boy, you're sure smart, Ernie," he said at last.

Ernest went back to his writing, smiling to himself. He knew he wasn't all that smart. □





Lighted Pathway

SPORTS REVIEW

EAST COAST BIBLE COLLEGE

President: Dr. Henry Smith
Nickname: Cavaliers

BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Mark Montgomery
Conference: Southland Christian Athletic Conference (SCAC)
Background: Since 1979, when East Coast became a charter member of SCAC, the Cavaliers have fielded competitive athletic teams. They play in a league composed of Bible colleges of comparable size. The 1985-86 season promises to be an excellent one for the Cavaliers.

OTHER INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS:

Men's soccer: Mark Montgomery, coach
Women's volleyball: Mark Montgomery, coach

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER	OPPONENT	SITE
12	John Wesley College	Home
15	Covenant College	Lookout Mountain, TN
16	Lee College	Cleveland, TN
18	Johnson Bible College	Knoxville, TN
22, 23	Paul Dana Walker Tournament	Cleveland, TN
DECEMBER		
3	Toccoa Falls	Home
6, 7	EAST COAST INVITATIONAL	Home
9	Bristol College	Bristol, TN
13	Appalachian Bible College	Home
JANUARY		
2-4	Warner Southern Invitational	Lake Wales, FL
6	Southeastern College	Lakeland, FL
7	Warner Southern College	Lake Wales, FL
10	Lee College	Home
14	Piedmont Bible College	Winston-Salem, NC
17	Johnson Bible College	Home
18	Bristol College (Homecoming)	Home
24	Reinhardt College	Waleska, GA
31	John Wesley College	Winston-Salem, NC
FEBRUARY		
1	Appalachian Bible College	Beckley, WV
4	Piedmont Bible College	Home
11	Toccoa Falls	Toccoa Falls, GA
17	Gardner-Webb	Boiling Springs, NC



Rob Moore, Waldorf, MD

Brent Morgan, Gadsden, AL



LEE COLLEGE

President: Dr. R. Lamar Vest
Athletic Director: Paul Duncan
Nickname: Flames

BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Randy Steele, men; Jack Souther, women
Conference: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA)
Tennessee Valley Athletic Conference (TVAC)
Background: The men's team has won the NCCAA National Championship twice (1968, 1973). The Flames made it to the final four nationwide four times. The Lady Flames, under Coach Jack Souther, won the NCCAA National Championship in 1985.

OTHER INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS:

Golf: Stanley Butler, coach
Tennis: Paul Duncan, coach

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER	OPPONENT	SITE
5	Small Four Tournament	Lookout Mountain, TN
7	(Tennessee Wesleyan, Covenant, Bryan)	
9	Kennesaw (Homecoming-2 p.m.)	Home
11	Birmingham Southern	Birmingham, AL
14	Baptist University of America	Home
16	Bryan	Dayton, TN
19	David Lipscomb	Nashville, TN
22, 23	Paul Dana Walker Tournament	
	(Berry, East Coast, Bristol)	Home
26	Tennessee Temple	Home
DECEMBER		
2	Lincoln Memorial	Home
3	Carson-Newman	Jefferson City, TN
6, 7	Transylvania Tournament	
	(Lincoln Memorial, Transylvania,	
	Urbana)	Lexington, KY
9	Cincinnati Bible	Cincinnati, OH
14	Bryan	Home
JANUARY		
2-4	Warner Southern Invitational	Lake Wales, FL
10	East Coast	Charlotte, NC
13	Tennessee Wesleyan	Athens, TN
18	King	Home
21	Carson-Newman	Home
23	Milligan	Milligan College, TN
24	King	Bristol, TN
25	Tusculum	Greeneville, TN
28	Covenant	Lookout Mountain, TN
30	Tennessee Temple	Chattanooga, TN
FEBRUARY		
1	Tusculum	Home
3	Baptist University of America	Atlanta, GA
7	Milligan	Home
10	Lincoln Memorial	Harrogate, TN
13	Tennessee Wesleyan	Home
14	Covenant	Home
15	Bristol	Bristol, TN





Coach Case and Coach Turner watch the Knights in action.

WEST COAST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

President: Dr. Hubert P. Black
Athletic Director: Jerry Turner
Nickname: Knights

BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Jerry Turner
Conference: Western Christian Athletic Association (WCAA)
National Little College Athletic Association (NLCAA)
Background: During the past three years the Knights have won 72 games and 3 conference championships, have been to the National Little College Tournament each year, and have produced 7 All-Conference players.

OTHER INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

Men's soccer: Richard Gardner and Carlos Moran, coaches
Women's volleyball: Lori Hill, coach
Baseball: Bob Harris, coach

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER	OPPONENT	SITE
15	Bethany	Home
23	Chico State	Chico, CA
30	Life Bible College	Los Angeles, CA
DECEMBER		
6	Southwestern	Chula Vista, CA
7	Arizona	Phoenix, AZ
10	Bethany	Santa Cruz, CA
13	Pacific Christian	Home
14	Pacific Coast	Home
JANUARY		
6	California Lutheran	Home
10	The Master's College	Newhall, CA
11	Southwestern	Home
14	Life Bible College	Home
17	Point Loma	San Diego, CA
18	Pacific Coast	San Dimas, CA
21	Fresno Pacific	Fresno, CA
24	California Baptist	Home
25	Christ College	Home
28	Westmont	Santa Barbara, CA
31	Southern California College	Home
FEBRUARY		
1	Arizona College of the Bible	Home
4	The Master's College	Home
8	Azusa	Home
10	Pacific Christian	Long Beach, CA
11	Southern California College	Costa Mesa, CA
15	Fresno Pacific	Home
18	California Baptist	Riverside, CA
21	Biola	La Mirada, CA
22	Christ College	Irvine, CA

HOW TO SAY THANKS

by REGINA STANCEL

Dear Mom and Dad,

I've often thought of rewriting the English language. I think the producers made a big mistake with a word or two. I've always admired how some words are expressively meaningful in their pronunciation. I'm concerned, however, that some need to be more creative.

Take the words "thank you." Strange words, indeed. No one ever seems to know exactly how to spell or say them. Do you run the "thank" in with the "you"? Or do you separate them and say them slowly? I always separate them.

The "you," the person you're addressing, is an easy word to understand. It's expressive even when used in referring to sheep! I have no problems with "you"; it's the "thank" part I have trouble with. What does it mean? How can you say "thank you" in the most expressive way for each occasion? You see, I don't think it's always appropriate.

"Thank you for the cup of coffee" is appropriate. It lets the giver know his efforts are appreciated. But a cup of coffee is no big deal! You can easily repay the person with some other gesture in return.

What about "Thank you, you saved my life"? Is the "thank you" used here appropriate for something as precious as life? No, I don't think so. And there are many other occasions when thank you just doesn't fit the bill.

One of these times is when you want to say "thank you" to your parents. You are grateful for all they've done and are doing for you now, things that probably can never be repaid. This is where I feel "thank you" is most lacking. If I could write the English language over, I'd take care of this. I'd make a word that could be used for special people who do "special" things and who mean an awful lot to me.

Maybe someday I'll come up with another word for "thank you." I'll find one that expresses my exact feelings. Right now I guess "thank you" will have to do. As long as you know that when I say it, it means a lot more.

It means "love."

Thank you

Gina

TAKE FIVE: Daily Devotion for November

November 1—Psalm 34
November 2—Isaiah 32:17, 18
November 3—1 Peter 3:10, 11
November 4—Psalm 25:12, 13
November 5—Proverbs 16:7
November 6—Psalm 4:8
November 7—John 14:27
November 8—Philippians 4:7-9
November 9—John 16:33
November 10—Colossians 3:12-15
November 11—Psalm 121:4-8
November 12—Colossians 1:18-20
November 13—2 Corinthians 13:11
November 14—John 14:26, 27
November 15—1 Corinthians 13:4-7
November 16—2 Timothy 2:24-26
November 17—2 Timothy 2:1-8
November 18—Matthew 5:22-26
November 19—Colossians 3:7-10
November 20—Colossians 4:5, 6
November 21—Galatians 6:1-5
November 22—Ephesians 4:30-32
November 23—Ephesians 5:26-29
November 24—Matthew 25:34-36
November 25—Acts 20:35
November 26—1 John 3:17, 18
November 27—1 Peter 4:8
November 28—2 Peter 1:7
November 29—Matthew 5:38-42
November 30—Romans 13:8-10 □

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TOP 10 BOOKS

Pathway Press Survey

1	*Another Generation* **by W. A. Davis**
2	*Bible Knowledge Commentary—OT Ed.* **(tie)**
2	*Ministers Guide for Special Occasions* **by Zeno C. Tharp (tie)**
4	*In Spirit and in Truth* **Edited by Robert E. Fisher (tie)**
4	*Zondervan Pictorial Dictionary of the Bible* **by Merrill C. Tenney (tie)**
6	*Talk Is Not Enough* **by Bill D. Wooten**
7	*Power With Purpose* **by John Sims**
8	*Like a Mighty Army* **by Charles W. Conn**
9	*A Study of the Holy Ghost* **by James A. Cross**
10	*Stewardship: A Total Life Commitment* **by R. Leonard Carroll**

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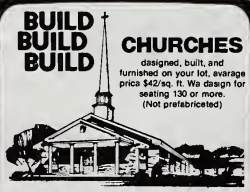


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Fanny Crosby

ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN CINEMAGRAPHIC ARTS

Mrs. Esther Wagner Ellingson, President of the Christian Film Distributors Association (CFDA), announced the 1985 Crown Awards at the Ninth Annual Convention of CFDA in Chicago.

Winning the Crown Award for the Best Film of the Year was *Never Ashamed,* produced by Edward T. McDougal Films. Named the Best Actress of 1985 was Wenda Shereos for her part in *Fanny Crosby,* a Ken Anderson Films production. Best Actor of the year went to Timothy Elwell for his part in *Never Ashamed.* The complete awards were:

Best Film of the Year	*Never Ashamed*	Edward T. McDougal Films
Best Evangelistic Film	*Never Ashamed*	Edward T. McDougal Films
Best Youth Film	*Never Ashamed*	Edward T. McDougal Films
Best Missionary Film	*Mud, Sweat, Cheers*	Ken Anderson Films
Best Children's Film	*Honesty*	Gosepl Films Inc.
Best Series Film	*Evidence for Faith* with Josh McDowell	Word Films
Best Actress	Wenda Shereos in *Fanny Crosby*	Ken Anderson Films
Best Actor	Timothy Elwell in *Never Ashamed*	Edward T. McDougal Films
Best Supporting Actress	Cathy Shipley in *Fanny Crosby*	Ken Anderson Films
Best Supporting Actor	Jon Jarcovic in *Never Ashamed*	Edward T. McDougal Films
Best Cinematography	Heather Edmondson in *Fanny Crosby*	Ken Anderson Films
Best Director	Ken Anderson in *Fanny Crosby*	Ken Anderson Films
President's Award	*Christian European Visual Media Association*	
Founder's Award	*The Healing*	Heartland Productions

OPERATION LIFE! Beginning a High School Campus Ministry

by Randy Steele

Upward Bound Youth Ministries, 1983, $6.95 (paper)

Need help in extending your youth ministry to the high school campus? This practical resource, written and developed by a Church of God youth minister, can give you that help. Steele talks about the rationale for an effective high school ministry, but his primary emphasis is on how to get started. The section on strategy gives you a fill-in-the-blanks guide to follow. The $6.95 price includes the student text and workbook, leader's guide, two posters, and six tracts. A super bargain.

Another Generation; A Strategy for Local Church Discipleship

by W. A. Davis

Pathway Press, 1985, $5.25 (cloth), $4.25 (paper)

Making disciples remains the central thrust of the Great Commission. Reaching the whole world, however, begins in the local church. Motivated by Judges 2:10, the general director of youth and Christian education has written a discipleship strategy that speaks to the home, the pastor and the church. An important feature is the Individual Discipleship Inventory which measures the progress of a disciple in eight different areas of his life. The church needs this burdened message. □

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH MINISTRY

by W. A. DAVIS

Another Generation *is a new book by W. A. Davis, general director of youth and Christian education. This article is adapted from one of the chapters. . . .*

THE KEY TO successful youth work is the youth worker.

A person or persons, whether volunteer or paid, must be given responsibility for youth ministry in your local church. Too often this important need is overlooked by local church leaders. Youth work is then shuffled from person to person, resulting in no one becoming capable of tracking the development of young people.

We have characteristically erred in one of two directions in the assignment of persons to work with youth. Either we draft someone for short-term efforts, who consequently does not get to know the young people on an intimate basis; or we employ a full-time person—usually called "youth director" or "youth pastor"—and then burden him with so many responsibilities apart from his primary function that he cannot effectively minister to youth. The task of the youth leader should be the equipping of young people for ministry.



Paul Borthwick wrote in *Youth Worker* magazine, "Ephesians 4:11, 12 can transform our perspective of ourselves and our ministries. Instead of trying to be 'Mr. Everything' in our youth ministry, we are responsible to be the pastor of youth, the equipper. Our responsibility is to teach them, to exemplify Christian lifestyle, and to pray for them so that they—as members of the body of Christ, which most are—can do their ministry."

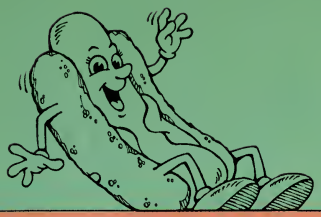
The distinct advantage of a long-term person who works exclusively with youth, is his acquired ability to know and evaluate the young people under his charge. He can rely on his personal knowledge of the teens and on measuring instruments, like the Individual Discipleship Inventory (see Resources, page 25), to chart their progress toward maturity.

What *is* youth ministry? How does it relate to discipleship?

Youth ministry is an extension of the Christian home, attempting to help concerned parents raise up another generation of godly young men and women.

Youth ministry is a balanced program of activities built around what may be called the Three-S Formula—Spiritual, Social, and Service. When these three aspects of living are integrated into planned action involving the teens of the church, youth ministry is being realized.

A responsible youth worker also integrates into his local church programs other opportunities that are offered by the church on a larger scale, such as district activities, camp meetings, youth camps and related programs. □



GOD THINKS YOU ARE FOR REAL

by MARCUS V. HAND

Does the fact that you exist matter? Does life seem dull and meaningless to you? See what the Bible has to say. . . .

WITH STUDIED PATIENCE the waitress rewrote the order. A young family was trying to decide what they wanted for their meal. After carefully recording each substitute and change, the waitress turned to the small son.

"What will you have, young man?"

"I'll have a hot dog and french fries," he replied.

Quickly the mother intervened. "Bring him mashed potatoes and meatloaf."

Ignoring the mother, the waitress asked the youngster, "And what do you want on that hot dog?"

"Mustard and catsup!"

As the waitress returned to the kitchen, the little boy said, "Hey, she thinks I'm real."

* * * *

All of us want to be real. We want to feel as though we count. We want someone to assure us that at least some of what we do and say is of consequence. We want to feel that our existence on Planet Earth matters to someone somewhere.

Oh, our parents assure us that we're important. Teachers and counselors reinforce this message often. Ministers and youth workers encourage us. We are reminded, with increasing frequency, of our own uniqueness.

Then we are ignored. Overlooked. Disregarded. Passed over. Talked at, instead of talked to.

We desperately want others to think we're real. Or at least act like they think it!

"Real isn't how you are made," the Skin Horse says in *The Velveteen Rabbit.* "When [someone] loves you for a long, long time . . . REALLY loves you, then you become real."

Author Margery Williams is talking about being genuine, of course; being authentic. But before we can be authentic or genuine, we have to feel that we really count.

Before we can *be* real, we have to feel that someone of worth takes notice of us and believes we are *for* real.

* * * *

God thinks you are for real. Before you were even born, God loved you enough to send His Son to die for you. Not only that,

- He formed you in your mother's womb (*Psalm 139:13-16*).
- He has blessed you more times than you can tell about (*Psalm 40:5*).
- He has better things for you than what existed for Bible heroes in faith's hall of fame (*Hebrews 11:40*).
- He cares for you with minute detail (*Luke 12:6, 7*).

Yes, God thinks you are for real. You may view your present life and circumstances as unexciting. Look at your current status, however, as a launching pad. From here you can go on to be what God wants you to be. □

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Murl and Carolyn Dirksen

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A CHRISTMAS IN China

by CAROLYN DIRKSEN

Dr. Murl Dirksen and his wife, Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, spent last year in China, teaching English (see May, 1984 Lighted Pathway). They are now back at Lee College.



Students in Kaifeng give Murl gifts.



Chinese help decorate the Dirksens' apartment.

CHRISTMAS WILL BE the hardest time," experienced travelers told us as we prepared to leave for a year in China. "You'll be very homesick as you miss the festivities—especially in a country where people don't observe the birth of Christ."

That gloomy warning hung in our minds as December arrived, gray and frozen. We anticipated a bleak month. Little did we know that our Christmas in China would bring more love and joy, more celebration, and more awareness of Christ's presence than any holiday we had ever known.



Murl has a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology and Carolyn has one in English.

To ward off the promised loneliness, my husband, Murl, and I began on Thanksgiving Day to send postcards to the people on our Christmas card list. The effort paid off and we began receiving cards and letters from friends around the United States. As mail poured in, we felt the Christmas spirit so we decorated our apartment with bright cards.

What did we want for Christmas? our parents asked. We quickly responded, "FOOD!" Soon, packages of homemade fudge and date rolls, boxes of divinity and peanut brittle, and tins of freshly baked cookies began arriving in the mail. By mid-December, we were stocked with an incredible pantry of delicious delicacies unmatched in the Orient. Thus, the thoughtful gestures of friends and family linked us closely and strongly with Christmas traditions. Six thousand miles between us and home seemed not to matter.

* * * *



Murl makes a purchase on Christmas Eve.

In mid-December, Murl and I decided to do our Christmas shopping for the people who lived in the Foreign Experts' Compound with us—an intriguing mixture of Christians and non-Christians, Americans and Chinese. We threaded our way by bicycle through crowded, narrow streets. Dodging hand carts, pedestrians, buses, and mules, we finally arrived at the jam-packed, pedestrians-only shopping street, our community's "free market."

We wedged through the crowd, examining the strange, unusual merchandise. A light snow began to fall. By the time we had visited all the stalls, carefully selecting our purchases, the exotic world of the bazaar had become a familiar white. Dusted with snow and laden with packages, we were overcome with the Christmas spirit. All the way home on our bicycles, we sang Christmas carols at the top of our lungs, feeling wonderfully at home.

That Sunday, we had another occasion to sing carols. It will always rank high in my list of Christmas memories. We had met a blind Christian who had become a dear friend. He has a lovely voice and loves to sing, so he asked if he could come by during the Christmas season and sing carols with us in English. We welcomed the chance and spent a whole snowy morning singing all the verses of every Christmas song in a worn hymnbook he had kept as a personal treasure for years.

I had brought a small, wooden nativity scene to China with me, and it sat on our coffee table during the unconventional vespers. Before our friend left, I placed each smooth figure in his hand and explained what it was. To my surprise, tears began to stream down his cheeks as he fingered each piece with tenderness and love. He sang the last carol and I quietly placed the figures in a box and gave it to him as he left. I've never given anyone a Christmas gift which was accepted with more unabashed joy.

* * * *

Two Christian churches are open in the city where we lived. Both celebrated Christmas enthusiastically with many services and beautiful decorations. Our blind friend wanted us to see the decorations, since we would be out of town on Christmas Day and couldn't attend the services. We knew where one of the churches was located, so we met him there.









Carolyn and Murl pose with the pastor and his family in a newly-reopened church.

Top, Christmas party for Henan University students. Bottom, Kaifeng church decorated for Christmas.

I was touched by the beauty of the simple sanctuary. Beautifully cut paper streamers hung from rough rafters. A cutout of the three wise men covered the front of the pulpit. A beautiful Christmas tree was decorated with ornaments made by church members. In the moment we entered that humble church and saw the beauty of the decorations, we were as close to Christmas as we have ever been in any lavish setting in the United States.

The second church was on the far side of town. I wondered how we would find it, but our friend had plans. He held on to Murl's bike as we pushed through a maze of narrow, twisting alleys, following his guidance. There were only six foreigners in our city so we always attracted attention. But the sight of two tall Americans pushing their bikes in a procession lead by a tiny, blind Chinese man, piqued the curiosity of all passersby. Gradually, we gathered a timid following of children and a large crowd of onlookers.

This church was decorated more beautifully than the first. The minister and his family were bursting with pride. The church was newly reopened and this was their first Christmas celebration since the ten-year Cultural Revolution. You could read in their eyes the privilege they felt of being able to celebrate Christmas openly, without fear. Seeing that church and observing the joy of that pastor, how can we ever again take for granted the special blessing of commemorating Christ's birth.

* * * *

Two weeks before Christmas, the gardener of the provincial university where we taught English arrived at our door with a large, but skinny, potted pine. He struggled to get it up the stairs to our living room. The university leaders were eager to make us feel at home and help us follow our bizarre customs, even if it meant bringing trees indoors.

Shortly after the tree arrived, a group of students came, carrying bundles of brightly-colored paper, scissors, and string. We had all the equipment necessary to transform our tree into yet another Christmas miracle.

Getting into the spirit of it all, Murl and I put on our Amy Grant tape of "Tennessee Christmas." We made decorations, ate goodies from home, and shared a delightful afternoon with our students. We





Top, Christmas 1984 was the first celebration in this church since 1965.
Bottom, Carolyn spends Christmas Eve in Xi'an.

learned to make simple Chinese paper cuts, and soon the whole apartment took on the glow of home at Christmas time.

Christmas Day grew closer. Our students came in groups to shower us with specially chosen gifts. We received book marks, post cards, personal pictures, specially written poems, calligraphy, glass figurines, chop sticks, calendars, stamps, and dozens of other remarkable surprises as well as a flood of warm wishes and old fashioned "good cheer." We felt so overwhelmed by the generous outpouring of love that we hardly knew how to respond. Feelings of homesickness were lost in the whirlwind of activity that swept us through the gray days of December.

On December 21, it was our turn, we thought, to give Christmas to the students. We planned a party for them in a small auditorium at the university. We decorated with candles and streamers, preparing gifts of fruit and nuts and a small book of Christmas poems for each person. Although we planned a small program of singing and games, we arrived at the party to learn again that you can't out-give the Chinese.

Several students had worked together to surprise us with a special program at "our" party. In addition to our meager festivities, the students provided musicians, singers, dancers, and actors of near-professional quality. We sat back and enjoyed a program displaying Chinese hospitality and generosity at its best.

* * * *

As we packed for a Christmas trip sponsored by the provincial government, we couldn't imagine the next few days being anything but anticlimactic to the incredible celebration we had already enjoyed. We boarded a train with 27 other foreign teachers from various cities in our province for a night trip to Xi'an. On Christmas Eve we toured fascinating Xi'an, viewing the remarkable terra cotta tomb figures, soaking in the imponderable history, and trying to stay warm.

Evening came and we had some free time. Several teachers decided to go out into the frozen streets and look for a church. We knew chances of finding one were slim. If we found one, there was little likelihood there would be a service on Saturday evening. Nevertheless, we forged ahead in darkened streets, following jumbled instructions from a man who wasn't sure his directions were accurate!

The weather was fiercly cold and we grew discouraged. The area we wandered into bore little resemblance to the area described by the instructions. Just as we were ready to turn back, we rounded a corner and the blackness was broken by the light of shimmering red lanterns. Across the warm glow on the snowy sidewalk the familiar melody, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," floated out to meet us. We knew we had found the church.

The courtyard was packed with worshipers crowding around a small window, trying to get a glimpse of the festivities. We joined them, happy to stand shoulder-to-shoulder and listen to the joyous music. However, we were quickly escorted inside to the seats of honor always given to foreigners in Chinese gatherings. The room was filled beyond its capacity and decorated much like the churches in our home city.

A beautiful picture of an oriental Madonna with her distinctly Chinese baby hung in a central position. This heart-warming evidence reminded us that Chinese believers saw Christ as their Savior too. □

MERRY CHRISTMAS



A blind believer in China tells about Christmas in his country. . . .

From China

AS PART OF THE worldwide Christmas celebration, Chinese Christians in Kaifeng, Henan, celebrated last year on December 25. All the Christians came to church to joyfully celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ.

We now have two churches in the city of Kaifeng. On the day Jesus Christ was born, the celebration was held twice in two churches. The religious service was in the morning and the praise party was in the evening. People crowded into the church for every service. More than 2,500 went to the church services that day—far more than ever before. This was the fourth Christmas since we reopened the first church in Kaifeng. The second church just opened this year. All churches were closed during the Cultural Revolution.

We had an especially good time at Christmas. When we entered the church, the first thing we saw was three wise men from the East seeking the infant Christ. A beautifully decorated Christmas tree stood at one corner of the platform, and the colorful lights of the tree reflected off the faces of the people. Beautiful paper flowers hung from the ceiling.

At the proper moment the minister, wearing a white robe, announced the service and we stood, respectfully singing Christmas carols and praying to God. After the minister's invocation we began the program. Hallelujah carol was sung by the choir first. Some recited verses from the Bible regarding the birth of Christ; other members played the harmonica, flute, piano, and so forth. The carol service lasted nearly three hours. Still, there wasn't enough time for everyone to perform.

We didn't spend much money on decorating the church. The members made the paper flowers and decorations themselves. They gave an offering—much more than was needed to decorate the church beautifully. Many members gave of their time to prepare for the services. Preparation began over a month before Christmas Day.

All this we have done because of God's continual care of the Chinese Christians. We must pray to God forever, thank God forever, and praise God forever! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all men.

"Praise God in his temple;
Praise his strength in heaven.
Praise him for the mighty things he has done; Praise his supreme greatness.
Praise him with trumpets, Praise him with harps and lyres, Praise him with drums and dancing, Praise him with harps and flutes, Praise him with cymbals, Praise him with loud cymbals.
Praise the Lord all living creatures.
Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150, *Chinese translation*). □



A Christmas NIGHTMARE IN MEXICO

by JAMES VANCE DOVER

"I was in another country, severely injured, and being held responsible for the death of four people. . . ."

CHRISTMAS EVE 1983 was a nightmare for my family and me. To this day, I cannot fully remember all the details. It was as though I went to bed one night, had a bad dream, and awoke to find out the dream was true.

What I discovered was that I was in another country, severely injured, and being held responsible for the death of four people—all for reasons I could not clearly remember!

My sister, Robin, was visiting my aunt and uncle, Gerald and Clara Brown, missionaries in Mexico. We decided to drive down in the van and pick her up. It would be a nice vacation for the Christmas holidays and we could visit Gerald and Clara's work. We would enjoy worshiping with our Mexican brothers and sisters. The six in our party included my father, Joe B. Dover; my grandfather, Roy Brown; two cousins, Tommy and David; and a friend from Switzerland, Marianne Valence.

* * * *

Christmas Eve was a cold day in Mexico. This particular area was experiencing snow and ice for the first time in 20 years. Forty miles from our first stop in Monterrey, we noticed the ice on the roads getting worse.

Suddenly, everything went black. The nightmare had begun. I don't know how long I was unconscious, but when I awoke, I was in extreme pain.

I tried to move, but couldn't. The last place I remembered being was in the driver's seat of the van; now I was in the back seat of a car—a police car!

Trying to get a grip on myself and see where I was, I looked down and saw my body drenched in blood. In sheer terror, I covered my face with my hands. When I pulled them away, they too were covered with blood. The pain was so excruciating I could hardly spit out the blood that filled my mouth.

I was so scared I didn't know what to do, except to pray. That I did, continuously!

Cautiously, I raised myself and looked out the back window. "Oh, Jesus! Help us!" I screamed. Our van was a crumpled heap; there was smoke all around.

"Dad, where's my dad?" I began yelling. Everyone was back at the van and I couldn't see any of them. So I laid back in the seat and prayed for God to take care of them and give me peace about the whole situation. I prayed earnestly for

God to take the pain away.

Soon, a doctor came and got in the car with me. I learned later that she and her husband, both doctors, were traveling from their home in Houston to Mexico City when they came upon the accident. Then they brought David, my seven-year-old cousin, and put him in the front seat. He seemed to be all right.

* * * *

A few minutes later a policeman got in and drove us to a hospital in Monterrey. We seemed to drive for hours. Every bump in the road sent pain throughout my body.

They had sent the doctor from Houston along to watch me and keep me calm. She was very nice. I asked her what had happened but I couldn't comprehend what she was telling me. Although she is an American, I was too much out of it to understand anything.

At the hospital I didn't know which was worse, the pain or the mass confusion that was going on. Lying on a stretcher in what looked like an emergency room, I noticed that all the other patients were unconscious. I was cold; the shivering caused my body to jump and shake continuously.

It was unreal. It was as though I were out of my body, looking down from above. Several people were around me, holding me down. A couple of doctors began working on me. I was awake through the whole thing and it was very painful.

Everybody around me spoke Spanish, of course. No one could speak English except one nurse. I asked her about my family and she said everyone was there at the hospital except my father and grandfather. She didn't know where they were. When she told me Marianne and Tommy were next to me, I looked over again and saw that they were unconscious with massive head injuries.

The nurse said that probably neither Marianne nor Tommy would make it through the night. They were lucky to have made it this far.

I began screaming and crying uncontrollably. Why did something like this have to happen to me?

After what seemed like an eternity, they took me to a room to sleep. I kept hoping I would go to sleep and wake up in my own bed back home, but I didn't. I knew that what was happening was real and my nightmare was just beginning. I knew that only God would be able to get me out of the situation I was in.

* * * *

It's a terrible feeling to wake up, unable to move and not knowing where you are. I looked around and saw ten more beds; it was definitely not a private room. My leg was in traction and a big pin was stuck through my knee. My arm was swollen and I couldn't move it at all. Then the nurses brought David in to see me. It was great to see that he was in good shape.

I tried to remember what day it was, then it came to me. It was Christmas! I wanted more than anything to be back home, safe with my family on Christmas Day. But I knew it would not be. As I lay there talking to David, the beautiful Houston doctor and her husband walked in. They had postponed their trip to Mexico City to spend Christmas with us because they knew we were all alone.

Christmas was a long and dreary day for me. I didn't know if my family back home in Georgia knew about what had happened but hoped that somehow they had been notified.

That night was a little better. I heard some people speaking English down the hall. I would have recognized one of the voices anywhere. A warm and gentle feeling filled me when I realized my mom was right down the hall. She and two of my aunts had arrived. Soon Gerald and Clara, the missionaries, arrived with Robin from Ciudad Victoria. Only with the help of God could my family have gotten there that quickly.

* * * *

I still didn't know what had happened to my dad and grandfather. Soon after Gerald got there he found out. They were both alive and doing well at a different hospital.

I knew something else was wrong, however. I insisted on Mom telling me what was going on. I reminded her that I was a 19-year-old college student, not a child.

After she told me, I wished I had not insisted. She said that the van had hit the other car head-on. A man, his wife, and two children were killed.

"No!" I screamed, "Mama, please don't say that!"

Mom continued. Because I was driving, the Mexican authorities were holding me responsible for the whole accident—including the death of four people.

"Oh, Jesus!" I prayed. "Please help me!" □

To be continued next month

The Reverend D. Tony Willis is minister of youth and Christian education at the Tremont Avenue Church of God in Greenville, South Carolina.



Some People Are Like That

by D. TONY WILLIS

IT WAS HARD TO believe that my older sister was actually married. Returning home from the wedding, there were only three of us—my mom, my smaller sister, and me.

When Sis began to set up housekeeping, she took all her possessions with her. The one possession we missed most of all was a small brown Chihuahua. I went to the kennel and picked a pretty, white Chihuahua. The little dog wasn't friendly at all. But the clerk assured me it would soon settle down and get used to us, so I took him home.

For two weeks, I made several attempts to pet the dog, but he would run and hide. I decided one day I was going to pet that dog one way or another! With a thick pair of gloves to protect my hands, I cornered the little fellow and scooped him up in my hands.

When I felt a sharp pain in my right hand, I put the dog down. Then I noticed the blood on his mouth. In frustration I said, "Well, if that's the way you want it, I'll just take you back tomorrow."

Turning to leave the room, I suddenly felt the Spirit of God. God spoke to me, "Some people are like that. I want to take them up, love them, and meet their needs, but they won't let Me. Instead, they run from Me and hurt themselves."

I stood in a daze and began to weep.

God had used a small, white Chihuahua to give me a message I'll never forget. While God stands and invites us to come to Him, some are rebellious.

They run from Him and hurt themselves. □

A Childhood Fear

"The only thing in the blue bucket was a tiny red spider. . . ."

When I was a little girl, I had an interesting playmate. A short, brown-haired boy named David lived several houses up the street. The two of us had a good time together, playing in the summer sun and running barefoot through the grass in our backyards.

One day he told me that red spiders were poisonous. Gullible, I believed his words to be true. During the following weeks, any time I saw a red spider I was terrified. The sight of any red spider, minute or quarter-sized, would send me running in the opposite direction.

I remember standing near the back of my family's red brick house once, and picking up my small plastic sand bucket. What was inside it? Of course! The only thing in the blue bucket was a tiny red spider. It didn't take me long to put the bucket down.

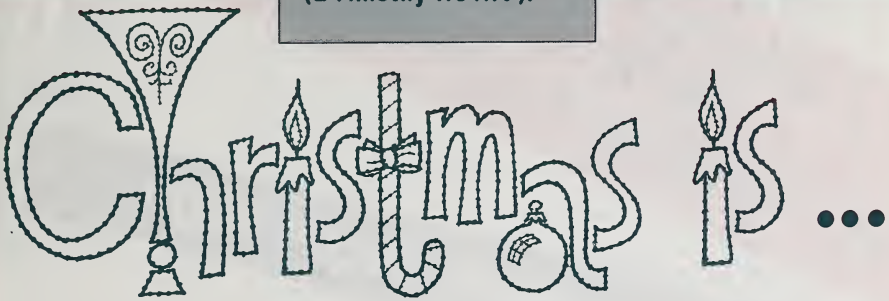
Later, my parents, my sister and I were sitting in my parents' bedroom, talking. Somehow the subject of red spiders and their poisonous state came up. My father found it hard to believe that I had swallowed David's little tale. My father laughed over my innocence. It took 15 or 20 minutes, however, for my parents to convince me that red spiders *really* are not poisonous.

I learned two things that day—red spiders aren't poisonous and don't accept everything people tell you. □

by TAMI FRAZIER



"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6 NIV).



CHRISTMAS IS many things.

It's red bows, green wreaths, silver tinsel, white snow, brown turkey, purple cranberry sauce, yellow corn, and blue lights on a tree.

Christmas is visiting relatives, exchanging gifts, and cherishing family. It's receiving a card from a friend, unexpectedly. It's speaking to a neighbor you haven't seen in months. It's smiling at a harried sales clerk. It's spreading joy.

Christmas is children squealing, grown-ups laughing, choirs singing, bells ringing. It's giving, loving, sharing; it's lifting, showing, caring.

It's plays, cantatas, and musicals. It's a choir of tiny tots singing slightly off key for a special occasion.

It's vacation from school; it's home from college.

Christmas is worship. It is loving God.

Christmas is that miracle called "Christmas Spirit." E. C. Baird expressed it like this:

- *I am the Christmas Spirit.*
- *I enter the home of poverty, causing pale-faced children to open their eyes wide, in pleased wonder.*
- *I cause the miser's clutched hand to relax and thus paint a bright spot on his soul.*
- *I cause the aged to renew their youth and to laugh in the old, glad way.*
- *I cause eager feet to climb dark stairways with filled baskets, leaving behind hearts amazed at the goodness of the world.*
- *I cause the prodigal to pause a moment on his wild, wasteful way and send to anxious love some little token that releases glad tears—tears which wash away the hard lines of sorrow.*
- *I enter dark prison cells, reminding scarred manhood of what might have been and pointing forward to good days yet to be.*
- *I come softly into the still, white home of pain, and lips that are too weak to speak, tremble in silent, eloquent gratitude.*
- *In a thousand ways I cause the weary world to look up into the face of God, and for a little moment forget the things that are small and wretched.*
- *I am the Christmas Spirit.*

During your December youth group meetings, use the items on the next three pages as prayer-provokers. They were written by Dan Wooding, chief correspondent for *Open Doors News Service.*



Christmas '85 in Non-Christian Countries

Silent Night, Secret Night

THE SNOW SETTLES, thick as goose down. A group of Russian children tiptoe along a darkened street and dart into a house. It is three days before Christmas and they are about to participate in a secret holiday service.

"We are holding our Christmas Day service early this year so the KGB won't discover what we are up to," Pastor Ivor reminds the 40 young people gathered in the secret hideout.

"You know I risk imprisonment for this," he emphasizes, "so let's all keep this little birthday party for Jesus our special secret."

Across the Soviet Union, groups of Christians, usually those who refuse to register with the State, meet secretly to carry out their special celebrations of this season of goodwill.

The day before the service, benches are carried, under cover of darkness, to the house where it is to be held. Every effort is made to keep the neighbors from knowing what is going on. Discovery could mean a prison sentence for the meeting leader.

An air of suppressed excitement fills the room. All the windows are blacked out and closed tightly. The group begin singing the first Christmas carol quietly.

After a powerful sermon by the pastor on "God's Greatest Gift to Mankind," he announces that it's gift time for the children.

Huge smiles crease the children's faces as nuts, apples and candy are handed out.

"I never thought I would receive such a gift," cries eight-year-old Lidya. Her father is in a Siberian labor camp for handing out Christian literature to his colleagues ("anti-Soviet activities"). Lidya's gift is a simple bag of nuts.

What would American children think of such a Christmas present? They expect computers, TV sets, even cars. But in many parts of the world, where money is scarce and persecution of believers is not, the Christmas celebration returns closer to its true meaning, unencumbered by the commercialism of the West.

"If God would send His only Son to earth for us, anything we have to suffer for Him is a privilege," a believer says. □

Communion in Africa



IN AFRICA, Christmas is a time of difficulty as well as joy. In many nations you rarely see a tinsel-bedecked Christmas tree; trees are much too precious for sustaining life. In some areas, people vie with animals for leaves to fill hungry stomachs. They treasure the fibrous bark which can be pounded into clothing.

Christians are not immune from this suffering. The greatest gift Africans in restricted countries can receive is to know that someone living in freedom cares for them and prays for their needs. Persecution comes so easily.

One holiday season, an Open Doors courier visited a pastor with the purpose of delivering much-needed Bibles to his church. There was much rejoicing over this "Bread of Life," so precious to them. As the courier looked around, his heart was torn by the great need for clothes, food, blankets and other things. He asked the pastor what he could bring back on his next trip. The answer came clear and unmistakable, "Bring us more of the Bread of Life. It's all we hunger for; the rest we will manage without."

The courier returned in time for Christmas with the requested gifts. He took part in their most precious fellowship, Holy Communion. With a scarce bottle of Coca-Cola passed around instead of wine, a pack of stale cookies off the dusty shelf of a bush store for bread, the people found the presence of the Lord almost tangible. They heard His words, "Do this in remembrance of me."

In some situations, Christians aren't allowed even simple communion on Christmas. Believers who suffer most at this holiday time are the prisoners locked in cruel camps, often on trumped-up charges.

For many Africans, Christmas is a time of pain and sadness. □

ar Over Eastern Europe

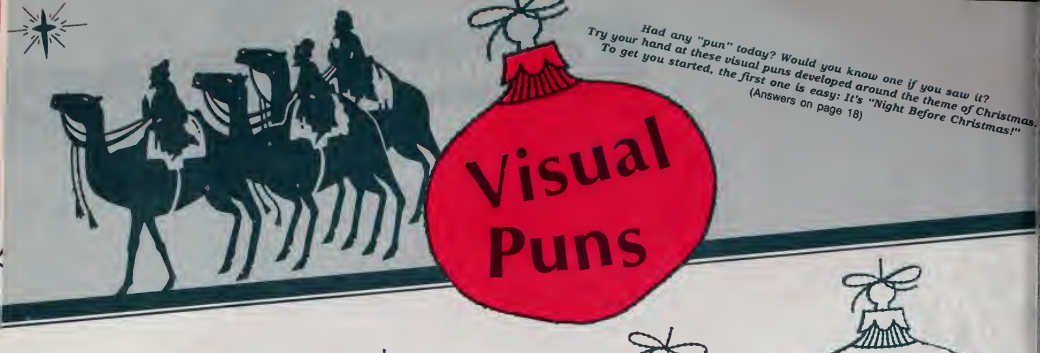
KOSTADIN KALMUKOV is a Christian prisoner in Stara Zogoa prison in Bulgaria. This courageous evangelist from the town of Karnobat in the eastern part of the country has been imprisoned more than once for his religious beliefs. He is currently serving a five-year sentence imposed in 1984.

Last year, he objected to the fact that Christmas was being treated by prison authorities as just an ordinary workday.

"Kostadin was consequently beaten unconscious by prison guards," reports Keston College in England, which monitors the persecution of Christians behind the Iron Curtain.

"The prison doctor was called but did nothing to help him. Kostadin was then thrown naked into the punishment cell. His punishment was to last fourteen days, but they brought him out after three days for fear he would die of cold."

This Bulgarian believer suffered because he expected the authorities to respect his conviction that Christmas and Easter should be kept holy to the Lord. Bulgaria is not alone in its failure to recognize the day of our Lord's birth. □

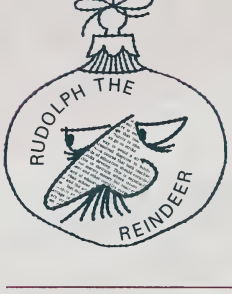


Visual Puns

Had any "pun" today? Would you know one if you saw it? Try your hand at these visual puns developed around the theme of Christmas. To get you started, the first one is easy: It's "Night Before Christmas!"

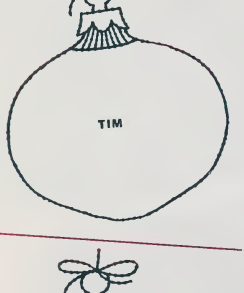
(Answers on page 18)



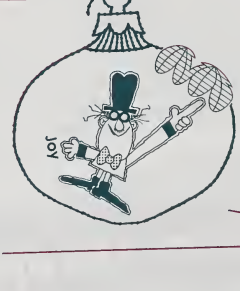


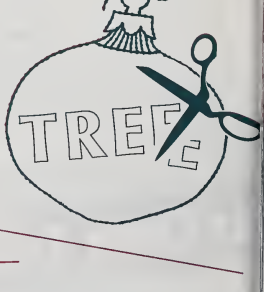




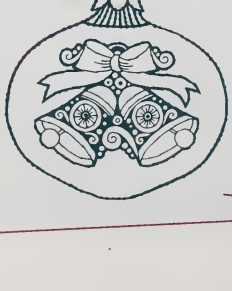




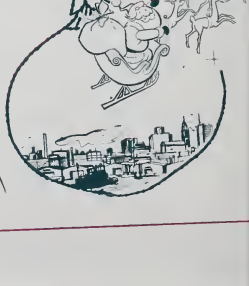


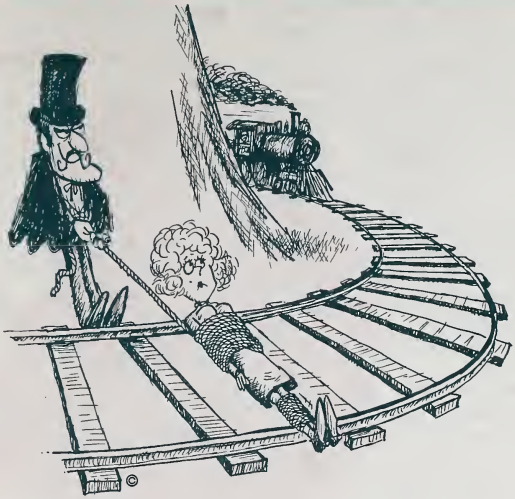












CHOICES

The kind of person you become depends more on the decisions you make than anything else. . . .

by LOIS C. PETERSON

WHAT MAKES A person the way he is?

This question is often asked after someone is arrested for a terrible crime. Why did he do it? What causes a person to be that way? The question is also asked about someone who accomplishes something. How did he get where he is? Why did he succeed?

The two reasons most often given relate to heredity and environment. You are born with certain limitations and abilities. Someone born with the genes to be only 5′ 6″ isn't going to be a

professional basketball player. Yet, he may be a great baseball player or businessman. A person born with an IQ of 95 isn't going to be a doctor. Yet, he may make a great cook or a warehouse worker. A person born blind won't be a race car driver but he can become a lawyer or a teacher. You can't change most basic facts about your physical heredity. You can, however, learn from and build on your limitations and strengths.

A second reason people become the way they are has to do with the environment they grow up in. What kind of parents did he or she have? What was his or her neighborhood like? Did he or she receive a high school education or did they drop out? What about college?

How you are raised, where, and by whom is said to have a great effect on the type of person you become. Two people born with the same physical qualities can end up with two different ways of life. Why? Because they are raised in different environments.

Is this the complete key to understanding how people end up with different personalities and lifestyles? No. One other observation can be made. How is it that two people with the same physical qualities *and* the same environment become so different if these two things are all that important?

The difference lies in the choices they make in their life. Each individual makes certain choices.

America is full of examples of people who have overcome all kinds of obstacles. Poverty, physical illness, accidents, a bad childhood, various addictions, and inferiority complexes are examples of the barriers people have overcome. Men and women have triumphed over all kinds of handicaps in this country and all over the world.

Christianity recognizes the importance of choice. You choose to accept Christ. You choose to follow the teachings of the Bible. You choose to have a positive attitude. You choose to conquer hard times through faith, hard work, and a positive attitude.

With God on your side what more do you need to succeed? But you have to choose to go with God.

You may be born with fantastic health, you may come from the greatest of families and live in the best of neighborhoods; yet, you could end up with a life and lifestyle not worth having. Why? The difference lies in the choices you make. More than any other factor, the choices you make affect the kind of life you will have.

What choices are you making? □

"How you are raised is said to have a great effect on you. Two people born with the same physical qualities can end up with two different ways of life. . . ."

ANSWERS TO VISUAL PUNS
Left to right

The Night Before Christmas
Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer
All Through the House
White Christmas
Tiny Tim
Silent Night, Holy Night
Joy to the World
Trimming the Tree
Christmas Wreath
Jingle Bells
Kissing Under the Mistletoe
Santa Clause Is Coming to Town

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JUMPING AT SHADOWS

by CINDY SMITH



Getting rid of the monsters on the wall. . . .

THE SAYING, "jumping at shadows," refers to a silly or unfounded fear. As a child of three, however, I found shadows to be a very real terror. Late at night, when the rest of my family was asleep, I would cringe, wide-eyed, at the top of my bed, frightened by the flickering shadows that our oak trees threw on my walls and window.

In the sunlight, the oak trees made a cool shade for me to play in; at night the same shade was transformed by the moonlight into frightful creatures, ready to pounce the moment my eyes were closed. As the night breezes tossed the broad leaves, my daytime friends made ever-changing, black and gray patterns on my walls.

One night I sat hunched over in my covers, crying softly. My father came in. "What's wrong?" he asked, untwisting my blankets.

"I'm scared," I replied with a sniff.

"There's nothing here to be afraid of," he said as he patted my shoulder.

"There are monsters on the wall," I whispered, moving closer to him.

He glanced at the shadows. "Well, we'll just have to get rid of them," he said. He stood up and walked determinedly to the window. My heart beat faster as he unhooked the latch. With one quick push, the window was open! Reaching back into the room, he grabbed an invisible but obviously heavy object and threw it out the window, calling after it, "Get out of here, you monsters!"

Then he closed the window and turned to me. I gave him a relieved smile. "See," he said gently. "There is nothing left here but some nice shadows." He smoothed the covers up to my chin and left the room.

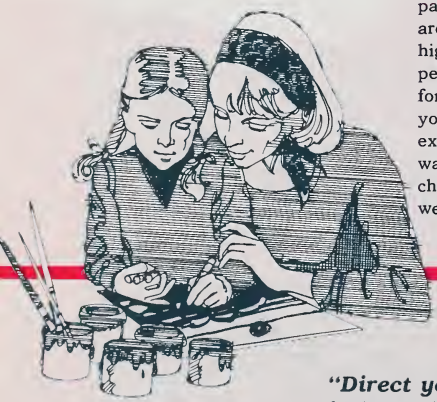
I sighed contentedly and drifted off to sleep. □

Youth Leader Workshop:

Creating an Environment for Effective Youth Ministry

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE special needs and require specialized ministry. Teen years are unique, presenting their own special problems and opportunities.

Teens often feel alienated from adults, particularly authority figures. Creating a responsive environment, one in which youth ministry and young people flourish, means making a conscious effort to improve adult/youth relationships. Some of the principles young people feel are important in this process are:



1. SHOW US YOU LOVE US.

Telling young people you love them isn't enough. You must keep demonstrating your love. Real love is unconditional.

Love young people because you are God's instrument for reflecting love, not because of what they do or don't do. This can be partly accomplished by genuinely enjoying their company. Young people can sense when an adult wants to be in their presence.

2. MAKE US FEEL WANTED.

Some church budgets are paradoxical. Thousands of dollars are spent for improved facilities, higher steeples, and padded pews; but a meaningful program for the spiritual development of young people is considered too expensive. Young people feel wanted when they see the church is serious about their well-being.

3. BE ALERT AND UP-TO-DATE.

Young people often complain that church leaders are not aware of the cultural differences they are exposed to in our society. Those who work with young people should know something of the jargon they speak, the music they listen to, and the activities in which they participate.

This certainly is no suggestion that adults adopt these things as part of their own lifestyle. Young people don't want that. They just want to know you are aware of them.

4. LISTEN TO WHAT WE SAY.

Adults sometimes have a tendency to brush youth aside by not taking seriously what they say. You must remember that what may seem like a small problem to an adult may be a gigantic problem to a teenager.

Give youth an opportunity to express themselves and encourage them to do so. Most young people will choose not to initiate communication with adults. They, too, need to be heard.

"Direct young people in their search for independence. Help them stand on their own two feet and make proper biblical decisions. . . ."



5. GIVE HONEST ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS.

Young people are frequently critical of the phoniness of older people, especially as it relates to their unwillingness to be honest and open. They say, "Tell it like it is."

Learn to level with your young people. If you don't know the answer, tell them you don't know. When you know the answer, give it with crisp and sincere conviction, without fear of being quoted.

6. DON'T EXPECT US TO BE PERFECT.

Young people will make mistakes. Expect it. How you learn to deal with their mistakes may determine the future of their Christian life. Adult leaders must understandingly guide youth toward spiritual maturity. Be careful about your own critical, judgmental attitudes.

7. STAND BY US . . . NOT OVER US.

Young people want your guidance. They don't want to feel they are being controlled. Churches that take a legalistic, hard-nosed approach toward their youth will lose them.

Help them learn to stand on their own two feet and make proper biblical decisions for themselves. You must direct them in their search for independence.

Remember, the church can successfully minister to teenagers' social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and service needs when it works on improving adult/teen relationships.

This process begins with you. □

—from Upward Bound Handbook for Youth Group Ministry

TORCH



To Reach Teens

They battle illicit sex and the four G's of drugs. . . .

IN WACO, TEXAS, things may never be the same again for teenagers lucky enough to encounter Teen Out Reach for Christian Help (TORCH). Founded by two former drug addicts and street children, Pam Stelk and Margaret Arriaga, TORCH is growing in numbers and ministry success every day.

Carmen French, a member of TORCH, wrote recently, "We are a group of girls in need of help. A while back we started helping out at the Crisis Pregnancy Center. First, we wrote a whole bunch of letters to our state legislator concerning the Texas Abortion Regulation (Sharp-Kubiak) Bill. Then we volunteered to help the center. We are tired of seeing innocent babies being killed. We are all girls between the ages of 12 and 18."

TORCH introduces itself with a brochure that states in part, "Our teens have a right to know that sex outside of marriage is not only wrong, but also has such benefits as unwanted babies, venereal disease, loss of self-respect, broken hearts, and lies. They need to be aware of the four G's of drugs: The Gnawing of addiction, the Glare of jail bars, the Gutter, and finally, the Grave.

"Teenagers deserve a truthful look at themselves. They need to be able to talk about what they see. They need to channel their energies into positive activities. Last, but not least, teenagers need to know that they are somebody *very* unique and special to God. We, as adults and Christian leaders, have an obligation to offer our teens an alternative to the world."

TORCH shares the following with their new or prospective members:

SOBERING FACTS:

- Eighty percent of all teenagers don't like the way they look.
- Suicide is the number two killer of teens. Auto accidents are number one.
- Forty percent of all teenagers smoke marijuana daily.
- There are 500,000 alcoholics in the United States between the ages of 10 and 19.
- Seventy-five percent of all high school students drink "socially."
- Each year 2.5 million teenagers contract a venereal disease. Up to 70 percent of the girls who have gonorrhea don't even know it.

"We realize TORCH is not the whole answer. But we have a desire to see young people get off the streets and be fulfilled with real happiness and joy, not the counterfeit of that."

Should there be a Teen Out Reach for Christian Help (TORCH) in your community?

Contact TORCH for information by writing Pam Stelk, Teen Out Reach for Christian Help, 1208 N. Robinson Drive, Waco, TX 76706. □

—from American Life League

Top 10 Gospel Favorites

This is a *Lighted Pathway* listing of top best selling gospel records and tapes.

1. **Unguarded**
   Amy Grant / Myrrh
2. **He Holds the Keys**
   Steve Green / Sparrow
3. **Medals**
   Russ Taff / Myrrh
4. **Beat the System**
   Petra / Myrrh
5. **Hymns Just for You**
   Sandi Patti / Benson
6. **Songs from the Heart**
   Sandi Patti / Impact / Benson
7. **Sheep in Wolves Clothing**
   Mylon Lefevre / Myrrh / Word
8. **Amy Grant**
   Amy Grant / Word
9. **Life**
   Gaither Trio / Word
10. **Sweet Anointing (tie)**
    Jimmy Swaggert / Jim

    Comin On Strong (tie)
    Carman / Word

Others: **Between Heaven and Hell,** *Rez Band / Sparrow*
Benny from Here, *Benny Hester / Myrrh*
Meltdown Remixes, *Steve Taylor / Sparrow*
Dedicated, *Nicholas / Command*
The Sky's the Limit, *Leon Patillo / Word*
Power of Praise, *Phil Driscoll / Sparrow*
Praise Seven, *Maranatha / Word*

CHRISTIAN VIDEOS

Here is a listing of the most popular videos being rented in Pathway Bookstores.

1. **Superbook, 9 Vols.**
2. **Live Concert**
   Sandi Patti
3. **Age to Age**
   Amy Grant
4. **It's Friday But Sunday's Coming**
   Anthony Campolo
5. **The Hiding Place** □



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Daily Devotion for December

December 1—Luke 9:57-62
December 2—Philippians 3:7-10
December 3—Romans 7:21-25
December 4—Ephesians 3:14-19
December 5—Matthew 20:1-16
December 6—Colossians 1:15-20
December 7—Acts 4:36, 37
December 8—John 8:31-36
December 9—Romans 6:16-22
December 10—Galatians 5:13, 14
December 11—1 Corinthians 9:19-23
December 12—Colossians 2:20-23
December 13—Colossians 3:1-8
December 14—Luke 17:20, 21
December 15—Romans 6:12-14
December 16—2 Timothy 1:10-12
December 17—Luke 12:1-3
December 18—Romans 10:3, 4
December 19—Acts 16:25-34
December 20—John 7:38, 39
December 21—Acts 2:38, 39
December 22—John 5:22-24
December 23—2 Corinthians 13:5-7
December 24—2 Corinthians 6:4-10
December 25—Luke 2:1-14
December 26—1 Corinthians 15:12-19
December 27—1 Corinthians 15:51-58
December 28—2 Corinthians 5:1-5
December 29—Revelation 21:22-26
December 30—Colossians 1:9-12
December 31—Acts 10:34-44 □

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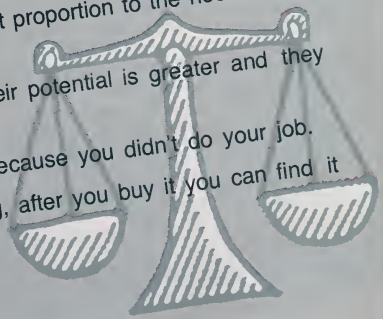
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Murphy's Laws OF YOUTH MINISTRY

(With apologies to Murphy, whoever he was)

1. Nothing is as easy as it looks.
2. Everything takes longer than you think.
3. If anything can go wrong, it will.
4. Good youth meetings always end up with the credit going to someone else.
5. For every unexpected visitor to the youth meeting, two regulars stay away.
6. The more important your special guest is, the smaller the attendance will be.
7. Audiovisual equipment always works well in rehearsal, breaks down during the meeting, and, miraculously, works again when the meeting is over.
8. Cost for unexpected repairs always equal the amount of money you just raised for ministry.
9. The difficulty in acquiring information increases in direct proportion to the need for the information.
10. Their youth ministry always grows faster, besides, their potential is greater and they never have the problems we have.
11. If any young person goofs in his personal life, it's because you didn't do your job.
12. No matter how long or hard you shop for something, after you buy it you can find it cheaper somewhere else! ☐





FIGHT FEAR WITH FAITH

by MARCUS V. HAND

WHY DO MANY approach Christmas with feelings of dread, rather than with eager anticipation?

"I'm not afraid," we say, whistling in the dark. Then fear makes liars of us by revealing itself in depression, anxieties, anger, frustrations, and feelings of inadequacy. If we are not afraid, why do we have so many hang-ups?

A central theme of the Christmas message is that Christ came to deliver us from our fears. Look at some of the causes of fear.

We fear **when we don't understand what is happening.** This was the root of Mary's fear (Luke 1:26-38, all scriptures *NIV*). The angel told Mary not to fear *because she was in a proper relationship with God.* Being right with God relieves you of the burden of having to fear, regardless of your circumstances.

We fear **when we cannot see the outcome in an uncertain situation.** This was the reason for Joseph's fears (Matthew 1:18-25). He was urged not to fear *because God was controlling the events.* Committing your uncertainties to Christ relieves you of the burden to fear.

We fear **when we are jolted out of the routine and the familiar.** Unsuspecting shepherds watching unexciting flocks, as they had for uncounted weeks, months, even years, were frightened from their complacency by the unusual spectacle of angels (Luke 2:8-20). Rousing us from the routine may be God's way of reminding us that *Christ has come and He is Lord.*

The first Christmas message to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds was the same: "Fear not!" It is a message for us today.

Corrie ten Boom's story of an unforgettable Christmas points up beautifully the power of the gospel to dispel fear and bring peace.

"It was Christmas, 1944. My sister, Betsy, had died. I was in a hospital barracks in Ravensbruck, the Nazi prison camp. Dark it was in my heart, and darkness was around me.

"There were Christmas trees in the street between the barracks. Dead bodies of prisoners had been thrown under the Christmas trees. I tried to talk to people around me about Christmas, but they mocked and sneered. At last I kept quiet.

"In the middle of the night I suddenly heard a child crying, *Mommy! Come to Oelie. Oelie feels so alone.* I went to her and saw a child not so young, but feeble-minded.

"Oelie, Mommy cannot come, but do you know who is willing to come to you? Jesus will come.

"Oelie was next to a window, not far from my bed. Although emasculated from lack of food, she had a sweet face and beautiful eyes. A bandage of toilet paper covered an incision from surgery on her back. That night I told this poor child about Jesus, how He came into the world as a little baby, how He came to save us from our sins.

"The Lord Jesus loves Oelie and has borne her punishment on the Cross. Now Oelie may go to heaven. Jesus is there right now. He is getting a little house ready for Oelie. Later I asked her what she remembered of what I told her. *What is the little house like?* I asked.

"Her reply, *It is very beautiful. There are no wicked people as in Ravensbruck—only good people and angels. And Oelie will see Jesus there.*

"The child added, *I will ask Jesus to make me brave when I have pain. I will think of the pain that Jesus suffered to show Oelie the way to heaven.* Oelie folded her hands, together we gave thanks.

"Then I knew why I had to spend this Christmas in Ravensbruck." □

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Without **WINGS,** we can never fly. God made us all to soar, to achieve, to become the best that we can be. The college experience should be a time when young people discover and flex their wings, flying as high and as far as their talents will allow.

Lee College is a place for Church of God young people to grow **roots** and **wings.** At Lee, we respect and affirm our roots in old-fashioned values. We put our **ROOTS** deeply into the "faith of our fathers." And at the same time, at Lee we develop our **WINGS,** preparing ourselves to fly toward the exciting challenges of the 21st Century.

For information, contact: Lee College, Cleveland, TN 37311.



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